P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx.t J. Scott Sculp.t

WATER SPANIEL.

Serfojee Rajah 1817

THE Sportsman's CABINET,

or a

Correct Delineation

of the

Canine Race

LONDON.

Printed for the Proprietors

1803.

Tomkins Scr. Geo. Allen Sculp.

THE

SPORTSMAN'S CABINET;

OR,

A CORRECT DELINEATION OF THE VARIOUS

DOGS USED IN THE SPORTS OF THE FIELD:

INCLUDING THE CANINE RACE IN GENERAL.

CONSISTING OF

A Series of Engravings

OF

EVERY DISTINCT BREED,

FROM ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, TAKEN FROM LIFE.

Interspersed with beautiful Vignettes, engraved on Wood.

ILLUSTRATED BY A COMPREHENSIVE, HISTORICAL AND SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT SPECIES; WITH A REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS DISEASES TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBJECT, AND THE MOST APPROVED AND EFFICACIOUS MODES OF TREATMENT AND CURE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED, A SCIENTIFIC DISQUISITION UPON THE

DISTEMPER, CANINE MADNESS, and the HYDROPHOBIA.

BY A VETERAN SPORTSMAN.

LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS,

BY J. CUNDEE, IVY-LANE PATERNOSTER-ROW;

SOLD BY T. HURST, PATERNOSTER-ROW; T. OSTELL, AVE-MARIA-LANE; AND CHAPPLE, PALL-MALL.

1803.

DEDICATION.

TO THE

Ladies Patronesses, Vice Patronesses, and Members

OF THE

SWAFFHAM, ASHDOWN-PARK, BRADWELL, AND FLIXTON COURSING SOCIETIES;

AND

TO THE NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE VARIOUS SUBSCRIPTION HUNTS IN EVERY PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM;

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

AS there has never yet been a period in which the CANINE SPECIES *were justly held in such high estimation; no time in which their various properties have been so minutely investigated and so perfectly understood; no time in which their individual, or accumulated excellence were more clearly ascertained; or any one period since the* CREATION, *in which they contributed so largely to the* PLEASURES *of* MANKIND; *so we presume to hope, no time could have been more proper, no opportunity more appropriate than the present moment, to submit most humbly and respectfully to your condescending patronage, countenance, and support, an undertaking, that it will be the greatest gratification of our ambition to render, not only eminently worthy the high, honourable, and distinguished protection we solicit; but an ornament to the country in which it is produced. To no one individual of eminence, could this* EFFORT *of the* ARTS *be with so much propriety inscribed, as to those who so largely and liberally sanction the rational and entertaining* SPORTS *of the* FIELD.

Strenuously anxious to render our exertions adequate to the most sanguine expectations, we most humbly beg to be believed,

My LORDS, LADIES, *and* GENTLEMEN,

Your obliged, obedient,

And most devoted Servants,

LONDON, MARCH 31, 1803.

THE PROPRIETORS.

INTRODUCTION.

WHENEVER an attempt is made to attract the attention of the public to what may properly be considered the obtrusion of literary novelty (particularly in the present age of pecuniary speculation, when the press is incessantly teeming with the most sterile, as well as the most fertile productions), some apology becomes due to the tribunal of public opinion, by the criterion of whose approving plaudits the adventurous pen attains a degree of celebrity; or, by an equally just decree, is doomed to perpetual oblivion. To compare the present with the past might be deemed invidious; and, to promise more than others have been able to perform, would be to encounter the accusation of presumption, which it may be prudent in the present instance to avoid. There is, probably, no subject in which the world is so individually and so generally engaged; upon which so little has been satisfactorily introduced, as upon the honest, faithful, sagacious, affectionately grateful animal whose innate properties and impulsive propensities it becomes our task to describe. That different attempts have been recently made by others is universally known; that they have proved abortive is equally true, and serves in recollection only, to demonstrate the arduous task of the present undertaking; the difficulty of which will not be considered the most trifling obstacle to a perfect execution; on the contrary, it will prove an emu-

lative

lative stimulus to the punctual performance of every promise made to the public respecting the undertaking before us.

It is, in a certain degree, to be regretted, that whatever has been transmitted to the present generation from the earliest authorities (to be found upon record), consist much more of hypothesis than of proof; in which the fertility of reclusive invention, seems to have supplied the place of practical experience. Perhaps there is no one subject upon which so much may be written, that does afford materials so few and so little authenticated, enabling any writer to go into the perfect investigation of every distinct and particular breed of dog upon the precise and infallible score of originality; unless each peculiar sort had been separately confined during certain periods, and their blood transmitted to posterity with an equal degree of pedigree and purity (as is now the practice) with the first and most valuable breed of horses in the kingdom. From the few who have condescended to promulgate their opinions upon the subject before us, we are presented with "A Genealogical Table of the Thirty-seven different races of Dogs;" originating with, and ramifying in, a great variety of directions, from the Shepherd's Dog; as the Adam from which the infinite diversity have been so immensely multiplied. The same privilege of free agency which permitted former writers to hazard conjecture where no proof could be obtained, is not contracted by time, but applicably extended to the present day, when the same advantages of rational construction suggested by one, may in conformity with the strictest literary equity be enjoyed by another.

In full confirmation of the verity of this suggestion, Buffon (whose quotations of authority from Pennant, Linnæus, Pliny, and various others,

others, are infinite,) particularly observes: that " of all animals the dog is most susceptible of impressions, most easily modified by moral causes, and most subject to alterations by physical influence." In the same country one dog differs greatly from another; and, in opposite climates, the same species (at least their properties) seem to be totally changed. From these causes, in addition to the incessantly increasing collateral ramifications of consanguinity, the number and mixture of races are so great that it is beyond the capacity of the first naturalist who ever did, or ever may exist, to afford even the rays of enumeration. In this almost incredible variety of races (or more properly variety of crosses), it is not only difficult, but it is absolutely impossible; it is beyond the power of the most abstruse depth of human wisdom, penetration, and perseverance, to explore, investigate, and ascertain the distinguishing trait and character of the primitive stock from which the whole are said to have been derived. The same degree of fertile invention which assisted former speculation, must of course go hand in hand with present enquiries, particularly when made upon the fair and broad ground of rationality, blended with its equitable concomitant personal experience.

Numerous are the arguments introduced to prove, that every sort of the present infinity originated in what has been termed the Shepherd's Dog; not only in this and any other nation, but upon the whole face of the globe; to demonstrate which, various quotations from the ancients are adduced; but, as literary disquisitions upon what has been buried in the deep recesses of abstrusity, during a lapse of so many thousand years, can only give rise to various conjectures and opposite opinions; it is the professed purport of this work to treat of dogs as they are, without adverting more to the imaginary order of each distinct breed, or peculiar propagation, than may be necessary to render it useful,

ful, instructive, and entertaining. Our readers will therefore find, that boasting the proportion of freedom to which we feel ourselves entitled; acknowledging no subservience to priority, no servility to predecessors; bound by no trammels of imitation; it is our intent to embark in the unbeaten track of originality, in which we are not without the anxious and encouraging hope, that much new matter and enlivening anecdote will be found to approve, but little to condemn.

THE

SPORTSMAN'S CABINET.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

THERE is no one period of history in which the sports of the field were known to have attained their present zenith of celebrity; or, in which the animals necessarily included and engaged in the enjoyment, had so nearly reached the summit of their variegated and distinct perfections. The canine race, contemplatively considered, in the general and most comprehensive point of view, holds up to the reflecting mind a most emphatic and reproachful mirror. Those who experimentally know their merits, who daily ruminate upon their good qualities, and have repeatedly analyzed their inherent virtues; are not here to be told they possess properties, in the aggregate, infinitely superior to those degrading faculties of many of the lower order of our own species, who, if they had happily retained some few distinguishing traits of excellence, for which those poor, humble, domestic, faithful dependants are so highly and so justly estimated, they might themselves have become individually useful to society, and rendered proportional ornaments to human nature. Thus then, to the ruminative and reflecting mind, it must appear, that the supreme and all-powerful Dispenser of events has, most benignantly, condescended to afford ample proof of an evident interposition in their favour, by so liberally supplying them with such a profusion of exemplary points to attract attention and excite affection: with so very few to produce disgust.

There is hardly a single look, or motion of this sagacious animal, but what may contribute an instructive lesson to the fertility of the human mind; atten-

tively observed in all his actions, there is no one enérgetic sensation, or predominant passion displayed, but what seems forcibly calculated to astonish and surprize; every expressive gesture demonstrates the strongly implanted seeds of sagacity, and the most superficial attention affords perpetual proof of rationality. If the inexperienced naturalist, or inattentive observer, feels but ill disposed to admit of that construction in its fullest extent, he must be a perfect sceptic not to allow him the almost unlimited powers of comprehension. The dog, independent of the beauty of his formation, his almost invariable vivacity, his strength and swiftness, has all the interior qualities which can attract the attention and esteem of man. When once domesticated, he almost instantly (and, as it were, instinctively) exerts his talents in the execution of his office; with the utmost humility in his manner, and penetrative property in his eye, he approaches his master at every interval of possibility, and submissively obtruding himself upon his attention, endeavours to demonstrate the powers he possesses, and only waits his master's orders to bring them into use.

The moment he has obtained the attention thus solicited, he watches every look and action, that he may the better conceive the intents and suggestions, or anticipate the wishes of his master, to execute whose commands seems the sole and absolute happiness of his life. He consults, interrogates, and entreats; a glance of the eye is sufficient for his quick conception; he instantly comprehends its meaning, and either advances, or retreats, according to the occasion. Without the degrading vices of man, he possesses all the ardour of sentiment; and, being perfectly pure in his attachments, those once formed, he supports them with unsullied fidelity, and the most inviolable affection. Incessantly alive to every discoverable sensation of his master, he displays no predominant proof of ambition, or interest, beyond the anxious desire of obeying, and the fear of displeasing him. In every action he is all zeal, all warmth, all obedience, and all gratitude; more sensible to the inspiring effects of favours spontaneously conferred, than of injuries ill deserved, he very soon forgets the one, but never fails to remember the other. If reproof or correction is injudiciously offered, or unjustly administered, he seldom, if ever, gives proof of pusillanimity in running away to avoid the punishment; but, most philosophically, and heroically, opposes patience to persecution, and submissively licks the hand by which the blows are inflicted; opposing them only by his sensations of sorrow, ultimately disarming his tormentor of resentment by the most affecting and impressive supplications, blended with unconditional submission.

The dog possessing a much greater portion of docility, and mental pliability than any other animal subservient to the use of man, is not only singularly adapted to receive instructions, but happily calculated to execute them as soon as they are understood. It seems his perpetual desire to reconcile his services to the wishes, the wants, and the occasions of those by whom he is surrounded, and to render those services truly acceptable to every branch of the family with whom he is fixed, and where he absolutely seems to consider himself as much, as truly and as faithfully a servant, as any biped of the domestic establishment. Possessing inherent principles of penetration, he acquires an observant knowledge of, and an implicit conformation to, the customs, manners, and habitudes of those whose commands he is conscious must be obeyed. His profound and almost incredible sagacity, in the discrimination of individuals, is beyond conception; his powers of hearing, seeing, and smelling, act in perfect unison with each other; conjunctively affording him an accumulation of advantages, by which he is enabled to extend occasional protection to a friend, or to defeat an enemy.

With invariable steadiness and punctuality he adheres closely to the heels of his master, or the hem of his garment; by a strict attention to whose countenance he acquires a knowledge of those who are his most intimate friends, and others who are merely casual callers, or trading dependants; the butcher, baker, and other diurnal visitors, he soon obtains the necessary acquaintance with, but not, in general, to any great degree of friendly familiarity; he discriminates, at first sight, between the higher classes and the lower orders of society, and regulates his proceedings accordingly; the former he receives at the door, and conducts to the family-parlour, or audience-chamber, with the politesse of a courtier; the latter he keeps at a proper distance, with the stern look and rigid eye of a sheriff's-officer. Incessantly inquisitive to every action, motion, and pursuit of his master, he will never lose sight of him if permitted to follow; unceasingly anxious to become his inseparable companion by day, as it is the greatest gratification of his own life to be the protector of his property by night. Necessitous solicitants, and wretched friendless travelling mendicants he keeps at humble distance, with as strict and aweful a severity as if he had acquired the requisites of office, from the party-coloured dependants, at the doors of the affluent, in the magnificent squares of the metropolis.

Upon the approach of night he is so well aware of its impressive stillness, and its favourable inducement to destructive depredators, that he enters upon the

 duties

duties of his department with the most courageous and becoming confidence; exultingly elate at the magnitude of the trust delegated solely to his unsullied and unsuspected protection. The family once retired to rest, and the charge of security resting within himself, he becomes doubly and trebly alive to every sense of danger; which, in whatever form it may appear, he is always prepared to oppose, and previously determined, at the hazard of his life, to subdue. In this state, every hour is an hour of watching and encreasing anxiety; the placid soothings and mild attractions of the day give way to the agitating sensations of the night, which, from the general gloom and aweful stillness that prevails, seems so peculiarly calculated to affect the mind of sensibility and attentive expectation; during this he assumes his characteristic department of courage and fidelity, listens to the footsteps, and prevents the too near approach of strangers, which he can scent (as well as hear) at a considerable distance.

When there is the slightest reason for alarm, he does not delay a moment in the communication; but, convinced it was an alarm without a cause, his displeasure gradually declines with the dying departure of the circumstance by which it had been occasioned. On the contrary, if the imagined, or threatened danger approaches nearer, he becomes the more strenuous, active, and ferocious, in proportion to the source from whence it was derived. Those of the largest and most powerful description, feel no dread or fear at the approach of strength seemingly superior---but adapt their violence to the difficulties they have to oppose. Instinctively determined against, and always prepared for, nocturnal depredation, the dog's sleep is by no means either sound or constant; whether he is the guardian within, or without the house, it neither adds to, or diminishes the extent of his indefatigable exertion in the protection of property: he knows it, by dint of perpetual attention, perfectly as well as if a schedule of every individual article had been given into his possession, and its use forcibly explained in a language he could have understood.

Not at present to enlarge more upon this infinite catalogue of almost incredible, and absolutely inexplicable perfections, it is natural to advert to their present weight of estimation in the scale of human society; which, in justice to their admitted merits, they are now so largely permitted to enter into. A naturalist of much literary celebrity sports the following speculative passage:---" To conceive the importance of this species in the order of nature, let us suppose that it never existed. Without the assistance of the dog, how could man have conquered,

conquered, tamed, and reduced the other animals to a state of slavery? How could he still discover, hunt down, and destroy noxious and savage beasts? For his own safety, and to render himself master of the animated world, it was necessary to form a party among the animals themselves, to conciliate, by caresses, those which were capable of attachment and obedience, in order to oppose them to the other species. Hence the training of the dog seems to have been the first art invented by man; and the result of this art was the conquest and peaceable possession of the earth."

Amidst the great variety of animals with which the earth so plentifully and benevolently abounds, the major part are superior to man in bodily strength, speed, agility, and courage; nature has fortified them in a degree beyond ourselves, and, in general, armed them better. Their senses palpably exceed those of the human frame; or, at least they enjoy them in a much higher, or more sublime state of perfection. To have secured the assistance of so intrepid, so affectionate, so persevering, so grateful, and so docile a species as the dog, was to possess the most perfect and most necessary prelude to conquest and dominion; and, he engaged in the origin, will always maintain a due proportion of the empire he contributed to obtain, by supporting his authority over all those animals it has been within his power to subdue. In respect to the superiority of any particular sense, the dog enjoys in a greater degree than the human species, the sense of smelling must be admitted, beyond the idea of controversy or contradiction; to which may be principally attributed the pre-eminence he has attained.

This sense is the principal support of his authority over every timid and less powerful part of the animal creation; as will be afforded ample opportunities to demonstrate in different parts of the work. By the exquisite irritability of this olfactory sensation, he is enabled to adhere so perseveringly to every object of pursuit; by this property alone he possesses the power of exploring every labyrinth, unravelling every clue which were intended to mislead or deceive him; till ultimately succeeding, he redoubles his endeavours in proportion to the difficulties he has to encounter; and overtaking the animal to which he is instinctively an enemy, he seizes, overcomes, and destroys it; extinguishing the effervescence of his impetuosity in the blood of whatever may happen to be so evidently the object of his implacable aversion.

In full proof that the dog was formed for, and naturally disposed to these pursuits, he is always ready to display his ardour by the undissembled eagerness of his emotions; he instantly understands the morning preparations for the field, as well as those who make them. In this perception, the effect of nature, habit, and education, are so united, that it is impossible to discover which has the predominance; and, whether it is hound, pointer, greyhound, or spaniel, each equally betrays his eager impatience for the particular sport to which his official services become appropriate; and, from the happy moment of commencement, displays a thousand proofs of his thirst for victory. The propensity to hunting in the dog is equally strong with the same sensation in the mind of the human species; it seems a disposition naturally implanted in almost every part of the creation, to which all pleasingly bow implicit obedience. We are reminded by Buffon, "that the whole knowledge of the savage is confined to fighting and hunting. All carnivorous animals which have weapons and strength, hunt naturally. The lion and the tiger, whose strength is so great as to ensure them of victory, hunt alone, and without artifice. Wolves, foxes, and wild dogs, hunt in packs, assist each other with much art, and mutually share in the prey. When the natural talents of the dog have been improved by education, when he has learned to repress his ardour, and to regulate his movements, he then hunts artificially, and is always certain of success."

He proceeds, with historic information, that in desert and depopulated countries there are wild dogs, differing but little in form and manners from wolves; but, for the facility with which they may be tamed, rendered tractable, and brought to obedience. These he affirms, unite in troops, attack wild boars, bulls, lions, and tigers. The wild dogs of America are said to have been originally of the domestic race, and to have been transported thither from different parts of Europe. Some of these having been lost, or abandoned in the deserts increased so prodigiously, that they soon overspread the inhabited part of the country in large packs; attacked the domestic cattle, and attempted the natives, who were obliged to kill and disperse them in the same manner as they did other animals of equal ferocity.

Wild dogs, we are told, though they have no previous knowledge of man, when approached with gentleness, display an evident tendency to association; that they soon soften, grow familiar, become obedient, and continue faithfully attached to their masters. This will excite no great degree of admiration, when it

it is recollected that, of all animals whose dispositions are so nicely known, the dog is the most susceptible of rational impressions mildly inculcated; and, that some have been taught tricks with coin, cards, and watches, hardly to be believed, and others an imitation of the human voice, very little short of verbal articulation. This species of fertility is, however, by no means general, as there is as great a difference in the intelligent conception of the canine race, as there is in the intellectual comprehension of the human species.

It is universally known how exceedingly dogs differ, not only in their habits, faculties, and their propensities, but in the various figures and formations of their bodies; even in the country which we inhabit, and where we see such numbers constantly bred, we may hourly observe what contrasts are produced, and how much one dog differs from another; in addition to which we are informed, by the most esteemed authority extant, that, in different climates, the very same species shall seem totally changed. From these causes, as well as the remote, infinite, and incredible mixture of races, and ramification of crosses, the total impossibility of enumerating each distinct breed, or species, is admitted by every naturalist who has hitherto promulgated an opinion upon the subject.

To this incessant change, and varied intercourse between all colours, sizes, sorts, ages, and contrasted descriptions in the routine of generation, may be attributed the remarkable varieties and curious diversifications with which these animals particularly abound. Infinite are the observations which must naturally arise, during the course of the work (by the introduction of anecdote), upon the contrasts frequently seen between whelps of the same litter; different in shape, opposite in size, reverse in colour, and directly retrograde in sporting propensity. Surprize, and hope of perfectly infallible investigation, must totally cease in respect to the fruitless minutiæ of various sizes, form of the heads, length of the muzzles, directions of the ears, formation or structure of tails, variation and variegation of colours, quality of the coats, and quantity of hair. It being clearly demonstrable to every comprehensive mind, that, notwithstanding the various branches now before us, they are absolutely the collateral ramifications of the same original trunk; and, with all the refinement of fertile invention, and theoretic speculation, cannot be said to constitute more than a single species of the creation.

The most celebrated who have transmitted their opinions to posterity upon this subject, admit the difficulty of tracing the present great variety of races to the primitive

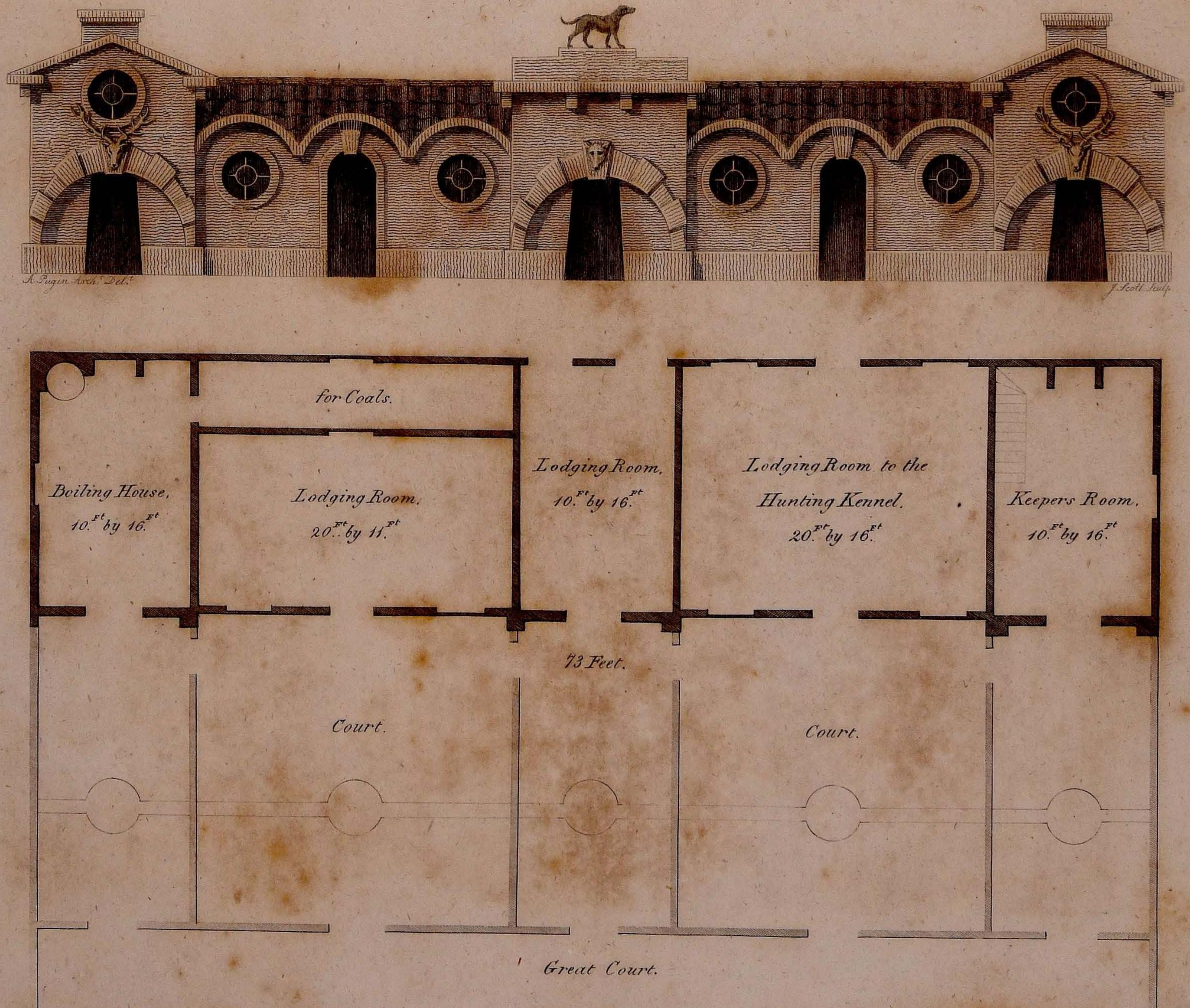
primitive stock from whence the whole have sprung; and, obliquely attribute some of the changes to climate, food, and other remote speculations; drawing a corroborative conclusion, that considerable difference will arise even in individuals of the same race, if one should continue in a wild and unrestrained, the other preserved in a domestic state. Confirming this suggestion by the following remarkable passage, well worthy attention, and entitled to respect:—

"In the progress of time all these causes alter the most permanent forms; and the original stamp of nature never preserves its purity in beings which have been long under the management of man. This original impression is best preserved in those animals that have the independent choice of both climate and food; the most ancient of which are still faithfully represented by their descendants. But those which man has subdued, transported from climate to climate, and changed their food, their habits and manner of living, must necessarily have suffered the greatest alterations in their form; and, it is a well known fact, that there are more varieties among the domestic than the wild animals: And, of all domestic animals, as the dog is most closely attached to man, lives as regularly, and is endowed with a disposition which render him docile, obedient, susceptible of every impression, and submissive to every restraint, it is not surprising that he should likewise exhibit the greatest variety in figure, size, colour, and other qualities."

A similar chain of reasoning is continued metaphorically, to justify the means by which such changes have taken place in figure, form, propensity, and effect. It is observed, the life of the dog is short; his powers of propagation great; and, as he is mostly under the eye of man, such breed as evidently degenerates by the cross, might have been prevented, if the same circumspection had been used as is now the constant practice with horses, hounds, pointers, greyhounds, and every other kind of dog purposely appropriate to the sports of the field. It is also remarked, that although every species (more properly race) were equally ancient, the number of generations from the creation, being greater in those whose lives are short; their varieties, deviations, alterations, and degeneration must consequently be the more probable and more conspicuous, in proportion as they are farther removed from the original stock.

Proceeding in conformity with this suggestion, upon the principle of comparative calculation, it will appear, that man is, at the present time, eight

degrees



ELEVATION AND GROUND PLAN OF A DOG KENNEL.

degrees nearer to Adam than the dog is to his first progenitor. The reason this: the life of man being taken at the average of eighty years, and the dog at ten, the hypothesis is immediately confirmed. Upon the basis of which construction, if correct, it must be admitted; if these two distinct species had an equal tendency to degenerate in every succeeding generation, the alterations and variations would be ten times stronger with one than in the other; for those diminutive animals whose lives are so short, that they are succeeded annually by a new generation, are infinitely more subject to variations of every kind than those who live longer. Various analogous conclusions might be drawn from the vegetable world in demonstration of this fact, but it would be branching into a palpable digression from the work before us. The experiment might be easily made, and annually observed upon in the botanical world, as well as with those who dedicate much of their time to the present unprecedented improvements in the system of agriculture; but, amidst the animal creation, where it is not possible to subdue their invincible repugnance to whatever constitutes restraint, or counteracts their natural, or acquired habits, no well-founded hope of success can be entertained.

Buffon, in his extracts from the works and authorities of different travellers, informs us, that the domestic dogs formerly abandoned in the deserts of America, and who have lived in that wild state for 150 or 200 years, though originally derived from altered races, must, during so long a time, have made greater or lesser approaches toward their primitive form. It is, however, reported, by those who have seen them, that they more resemble our greyhounds. They transmit the same observations with regard to the wild dogs of Congo, which, like those of America, make war in packs against tigers, lions, &c. Those who make report of the wild dogs of St. Domingo say, they have generally a long flat head, a slender muzzle, a ferocious air, and meagre bodies; that they are exceedingly swift in the chase; hunt in the most perfect manner, and are easily tamed when taken young. Thus these wild dogs are meagre and fleet; and, as the common greyhound differs but little, in other respects, from the Irish greyhound, or shepherd's dog, it is probable that those wild dogs rather belong to this kind, than to the true greyhound race; for, on the other hand, it is confirmed, by the accounts of more ancient travellers, that the native dogs of Canada had erect ears like the fox, and resembled our yelping village-cur; that those belonging to the savages of the Antilles had very long heads and ears,

approaching the figure of foxes; that the Indians of Peru had only a large and a small kind; and, that those of the isthmus of America were very ugly, had long coarse hair, and erect ears.

Hence it is endeavoured to confirm the suggestion, that before the original dogs of America had any communication with the dogs brought and left there from Europe, they were all of one race; and, that they approached most to the dogs with slender muzzles, erect ears, and coarse hair, like the shepherd's dog. Whatever has been recorded upon the dogs of different countries, all travellers uniformly agree, that in cold climates they have invariably long muzzles and erect ears; that those of Lapland are small, with long hair, erect ears, and sharp muzzles; that the dogs of Siberia, and those called wolf-dogs, are considerably larger than the Lapland kind, but their ears are also erect, their hair coarse and shaggy, and their muzzles equally sharp; that those of Iceland are nearly similar to the Siberian; and, in the same manner, that the native dogs of the Cape of Good Hope, and other warm climates, have pointed muzzles, erect ears, long trailing tails, and clear, but long rough hair. These dogs are authentically proved to be excellent guardians of the flock, and of course have a very near affinity to the shepherd's dog, not only in figure, but in other respects.

In still warmer climates the native dogs (it is agreed by all authorities) have all long muzzles, erect ears, and have such a resemblance to the shepherd's dog, that when Irish greyhounds, spaniels, water-dogs, bull-dogs, blood-hounds, or greyhounds were transported thither, they completely degenerated at the second or third generation; and, that in excessive warm countries (as in Guinea), this degeneration is still quicker; for, in three or four years, they lose their voice, bark no more, retaining only a horrid kind of howl, their progeny then having ears erect like a fox. The native dogs of these countries are ugly beyond description, with sharp muzzles, long ears erect, and long pointed tails; there is no hair on their bodies; their skin is commonly spotted, but sometimes of a leaden or fawn colour; they are singularly disagreeable to the eye, and most disgusting to the touch.

By all that can be collected from the best and most authenticated authorities, it seems the particular dog, called the shepherd's dog, approaches by much the nearest to the primitive race; for, in every country inhabited by any part of the human

human species, the native dogs are admitted to resemble this race more than any other. The better to strengthen which belief it is observed, by those who have made the most minute investigations, that, in the whole of the New Continent, there was no other variety; neither is there any other at the south or north extremities of our own continent; and, in France, as well as the other temperate climates, they are very numerous, though greater attention has been paid to the more beautiful and sporting kinds than to the preservation of this particular race, which having nothing to recommend it but its utility, has been abandoned by all but those who have occasion for their service.

After a great deal of unconnected extraneous matter, and speculative rumination little to the purpose, Buffon introduces the following forcible and irresistible reasoning:—"If it be farther considered, that this dog (meaning the shepherd's), notwithstanding his ugliness, and his wild melancholy aspect, is superior to all others in instinct; that he has a decided character independent of education; that he alone is born fully trained; that guided solely by his natural powers, he applies himself spontaneously to the keeping of flocks, which he executes with the most amazing assiduity, vigilance and fidelity; that he conducts them with an admirable and uncommunicated intelligence; that his talents, at the same time, astonish and give repose to his master, while other dogs require the most laborious instruction to train them to the purposes for which they are destined; we will be confirmed in the opinion, that the shepherd's dog is the true dog of nature; that he has been preferably bestowed on us for the extent of his utility; that he has a superior relation to the general order of animated beings who mutually depend on each other; and, lastly, that he ought to be regarded as the origin and model of the whole species."

The strenuous effort of each writer, has been to bring every conjectural probability forward that can tend to establish the idea (which they all acknowledge can never be brought to unequivocal proof) that the whole of the different races, as they now appear in all their various branches, shapes, forms, pursuits, appetites and propensities, in all countries, and in all climates, originated in one particular species, which they termed the shepherd's dog. In conformity with the idea so long since adopted, and possibly with a plausibility and truth not to be attacked, or controverted, it is correspondingly observed, that, in all the frigid regions of the North, the human frame is deformed and diminutive: that Lapland, Greenland, and all countries where the cold is excessive, produce

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only the smallest and ugliest of mankind. But in the less severe climates of Finland, Denmark, and the neighbouring countries, the natives are well known to be in figure, stature, colour, and intellectual capacity, equal to any, and superior to most of the inhabitants of many other countries in more southern latitudes. The same inexplicable phænomenon is extended to the canine species, and in the same precise direction in respect to place and conformation. The dogs of Lapland are most disgustingly ugly, and proportionally diminutive, not exceeding from a foot to fifteen inches in length. Those of Siberia, though less ugly, have their ears erect, and an aspect of much ferocity; but, in the neighbouring climate, where we find the well-formed, handsome natives of the human species already mentioned, we find also the most beautifully formed, large, and majestic dogs to be described.

The dogs of Greece, of Denmark, of Tartary, and Ireland, are the largest and the strongest of the species; in confirmation of which, they are so much so, as to be capable of, and are employed in drawing carriages of different kinds. The Irish greyhound is of a very ancient race, and still to be found in some few remote parts of that kingdom: though they are said to be much reduced, and exceedingly scarce, even in their original climate. They are much larger than the mastiff; exceedingly ferocious when enraged; and, one is said, upon record, to have engaged alternately in combat with the lion and the elephant. Buffon observes, he never saw but one of them, which appeared, when sitting, to be about five feet high, and resembled, in figure, the Danish dog, but greatly exceeded him in stature; he was totally white, and of a mild and peaceable disposition. From the various remarks made~~, and the~~ inferences naturally to be inferred, it appears that, in the temperate climes of Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy, both men and dogs of every description are to be found; and this may probably proceed, in part, from the influence of the climate, and partly from the great influx of, and intercourse with, natives of the different countries who so numerously resort to each.

With respect to the dogs, it seems to have been forcibly impressed, and now generally admitted, that whatever difference, or similitudes may have been produced amongst the species in general, they were the effect of variations in shelter, care, food, country, and climate, according to their casual distribution and propagation in every quarter of the globe. The Danish dog, the Irish greyhound, and the common greyhound of this country, though they appear so different, are said, by

by Buffon, to be but one and the same dog. The Danish dog, says he, is but a more corpulent Irish greyhound; and, the common greyhound, is the Irish greyhound rendered thinner and more delicate by culture; for these three dogs, though perfectly distinguishable at first sight, differ no more from each other than three human masculine natives of Holland, Italy, and France; and, by the same parity of reasoning, he proceeds to justify the supposition, that, had the Irish greyhound been a native of France, he would have produced the Danish dog in a colder climate, and the common greyhound in a warmer one; and this conjecture, he observes, is absolutely verified by experience—for the Danish dogs are brought to us from the North, and the greyhounds from Constantinople and the Levant.

The shepherd's dog, the Pomeranian, or wolf-dog, the Siberian dog, the Lapland, the Canadian, and the Hottentot dog, as well as those who have erect ears, constitute but one kind. They differ from the first-mentioned only in stature, in being more or less gross; or in the length, coarseness, or bushiness of their hair.

The hound, harrier, turnspit, water-dog, and even the spaniel, may be considered as one dog. The figure, and nearly the instinctive propensities of these are mostly the same, as they differ only in the length of their legs, and the size of their ears, which are, however, in all of them long, soft, and pendulous. These dogs are called natives of France, and it is doubted whether the Dalmatian dog (or harrier of Bengal) should not be included, as he differs from the harrier of our own country only in colour. Buffon declared himself convinced that this dog was not originally a native of Bengal, or of any other part of India, and that it is not, as has been pretended, the Indian dog mentioned by the antients, and said to have been produced between a dog and a tiger; for it has been known in Italy for two centuries, and not considered as a dog brought from India, but as a common harrier.

The hound, harrier, and turnspit, are supposed to have been the natives of England, France, and Germany; when transported to climates some degrees warmer, they are then perceived gradually to degenerate. But the spaniels and water-dogs are professedly natives of Spain and Barbary, where, by the temperature of the climate, the hair of all animals is rendered longer and finer than in any other country whatever.

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The bull-dog, the naked, or Turkish dog, and the Iceland dog, are said to constitute but one race; which being removed from cold countries where the fur, hair, or wool, is always strong, into the warmer climates of Africa and India, have lost their hair; thus the naked is improperly called the Turkish dog, because it is not in the temperate clime of Turkey, but in the hotter regions of India and Guinea, in which they lose their hair. The Turkish dog is nothing but the small Danish Dog, which having been transported to a much warmer climate lost its hair, and was afterwards returned to Turkey, and propagated more carefully on account of its singularity.

It is only in temperate climates that dogs preserve their original ardour, sagacity, and courage; they lose every thing when removed to countries hotter than that in which they are bred. A celebrated writer observes, that in climates where dogs cannot be used in the way they are employed in this country, they are in certain request for the table; and their flesh is preferred by the negroes to that of any other animal. They sell dogs in their markets as dear as mutton, venison, or game of any kind, a roasted dog being the most luxurious feast of the whole. This singularity of appetite may, probably, arise from some change in the flavour of the flesh, produced by the heat of that country; for, in the temperate climes, it is known to be not only disagreeable, but absolutely offensive. There can be no doubt but this depends more upon the unnatural and depraved appetite, and upon the carnivorous disposition of the eater, than any delicious property in the eaten; for the savages of Canada, who inhabit a cold country, are as fond of dog's flesh as the natives of a hot one; and, it is said, our own missionaries sometimes partake of it without disgust.

Various patient experiments have been made by different speculators, equally zealous, and equally anxious, to explore the utmost recesses of nature, who have observed, that the wolf and the fox are two animals making, individually, the nearest approach to the dog, particularly to the shepherd's dog, of any other quadrupeds in the creation. From thence they were induced to adopt every possible mode of bringing them into constant association, and of even confining them together, to ascertain to a certainty whether any kind of copulative connection would take place between them, but without effect. And these experiments were made with a collateral consideration, that if they did intermix with each other, and did not produce individuals of generative fertility, mules might appear participating of the nature of both.

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That every chance might be afforded for the success of these experiments so industriously made, a she-wolf, taken from its wild state of nature in the woods when only three months old, was shut up in a large court, surrounded by a high wall, with an Irish greyhound of the same age; to this court no other beast whatever could have access; and within it was proper shelter for their individual or joint retirement: they were equally strangers to their own species, and knew no person but the man by whom they were fed. In this state they were kept together for three years, that the result of the experiment might be more fully known and confirmed. During the first twelve months they perpetually played together, and had every appearance of being exceedingly fond of each other; the second year disputes constantly arose, but more particularly about their provisions, though supplied in great plenty; and, it was remarked, that such always originated with the wolf.

When meat and bones were given them on a large wooden dish, the wolf, instead of seizing either, instantly drove off the dog; then laid hold of the edge of the plate so dexterously, as to allow nothing to fall, and carried off the whole. She has been seen to run in this manner, with the dish in her teeth, five or six times round the wall, and never set it down, unless to take breath, to devour the meat, or to attack the dog when he approached. The dog was at all times evidently stronger than the wolf, but, as he was less ferocious, a collar for his neck was found necessary for the preservation of his life. By the expiration of the second year, these combats became more frequent, and the result of each still more serious; in which state a collar was found equally necessary for the wolf, who, in every successive dispute, was worse used than before. During the whole of the two years, not the least tendency to venery, not the most trifling symptom of desire could be observed in either one or the other. At the end of the third year, these sensations became perceptible in each, but produced no marks of affection in either. The state they were in, instead of rendering them more peaceable and more accommodating to each other, served only to promote new cause of contest, and excite more frequent opportunities to renew their quarrels; discontented howlings and roarings of resentment and disappointment were incessant; they never approached each other but to fight, and at the end of three weeks were both completely emaciated. In this eternal warfare and struggle for superiority, they fought at last with such determined desperation, that the wolf was killed in the conflict. Upon the death of his companion, the dog was set at liberty; but, after so long a confinement, sequestered from every

part

From these experiments so well authenticated, Buffon ventured to promulgate his opinion, that both the wolf and the fox are very different in their natures from the dog; and, that their species are so distinct and remote from each other, as to prevent any carnal communication, at least in our climates; from thence inferring, "that the dog did not derive his origin from either the wolf or the fox; and, that those who regard these two animals (Linnæus) as wild dogs, or who imagine the dog to be a wolf or a fox become domesticated, and give to the whole three the common name of dog, have deceived themselves by not sufficiently studying nature."

The above author is accused of having made up his mind too generally and decisively upon the experiments before recited—for it is reported by Mr. Pennant, in his "Synopsis of Quadrupeds," that such an intercourse did recently take place, and the effect was prolific. He has described it in the following words:—

Mr. Brook, animal-merchant, in Holborn, turned a wolf to a Pomeranian bitch at heat. The congress was immediate, and as usual between dog and bitch; she produced ten puppies. I have seen one of them that had very much the resemblance of the wolf, and much of its nature; being slipped at a weak deer, it instantly caught at the animal's throat and killed it. It is in some degree to be regretted, that nothing has transpired respecting the fertility and sterility of these mules, as they must be termed, if the truth of the circumstance is to be admitted. But, it is to be observed, that the writer does not inform us he saw the act of copulation completed, but that he saw one of the ten puppies; those who are not replete with credulity, have an alternative to relieve their doubts upon the subject, and may believe, what might very probably have been the case, that Mr. Brook, to promote the purposes of pecuniary propagation, turned a wolf-dog to the Pomeranian-bitch, from which connection the ten wonders were very possibly produced.

Mr. Daniel, however, in his recent publication of "Rural Sports," takes upon himself to decide upon the point, beyond all matter of controversy in various instances; of which a few may be introduced in confirmation of the opinion he has formed. He mentions a mongrel of this kind greatly resembling its wolf-parent, to have been seen in the possession of Sir Wolstan Dixie, afterwards of Sir Willoughby Aston. During the day it was remarkably tame, but sometimes at night relapsed into ferocity. It never barked, but rather howled: when it came

came into fields where sheep were, it would feign lameness; but, if no person was present, would instantly attack them. It had been seen in the act of copulation with a bitch who produced whelps at the usual time, and they were said in many respects to resemble the supposed sire.

He also quotes part of a letter written by Dr. Pallas, dated October 5, 1781, in which he says,

"I have seen, at Moscow, about twenty spurious animals from dogs and black wolves; they are, for the most part, like wolves, except that some carry their tails higher, and have a kind of coarse barking. They multiply among themselves; and some of the whelps are greyish, rusty, or even of the whitish hue of the arctic wolves; and one of these I saw, in shape, tail, and hair, and even in barking, so like a cur, that was it not for his head and ears, his ill-natured look, and fearfulness at the approach of man, I should hardly have believed that it was of the same breed."

Mr. Collinson, in his remarks upon the Siberian dog says, "it is certain they copulate with wolves and foxes. When confined they will not intermix; but, at full liberty, they willingly come together. With regard to the dog and wolf, I myself have seen them couple in England; but have never met with any person who ever saw dogs and foxes intermingle. However, from a kind I saw produced from a bitch, which had lived at freedom in the woods, I have no doubt she had been impregnated by a fox; and, by the peasants, this species is distinguished by the name of fox-dogs."

Mr. Daniel, after judiciously expatiating upon the deceptive experiments made by Buffon, proceeds to affirm, that the fox and the dog will copulate and generate together, and that the offspring will still continue prolific in both the masculine and feminine direction. He mentions it as a common practice in some parts of the north of England, to tie up a canine bitch at heat, where the fox may have unrestrained access to her; and that the fruits of the connexion are sufficiently obvious, by most, if not all the whelps bearing a strong resemblance to the fox, in their sharp nose, prick ears, long body, and short legs; he farther says they are much esteemed for their usefulness in driving cattle, that they bite keenly, are extremely active, playful, and exceedingly expert at destroying rats, weazels, and other vermin.

The impartial enquirer is, however, entitled to an applicable remark upon this circumstance, which is, that the practical sportsman and ruminative observer well know, that if a dog-fox had free access to the canine bitch thus tied up, so had every dog, or cur in the district also; in full confirmation of this (without adverting to scent, which will largely follow in the course of the track,) it is a fact beyond the power of the most determined incredulity to oppose, that a bitch being at heat upon a remote farm, a full mile or more from any habitation whatever, will have gallant visitors (two or three at a time) spontaneously arrive from the different dwellings or villages in the surrounding neighbourhood; of which the writer has seen repeated instances at what are called the Down Farms of Hants and Wiltshire.

As there have long been opinions formed upon this subject directly opposite to each other, it is strictly equitable every well-known and authenticated transaction should be candidly introduced on either side, that can possibly tend to throw additional light upon the matter which has undergone so much reiterated discussion, where no ray of certainty can be ascertained. In support of the present prevalent opinion, and in direct opposition to what were considered decisive experiments by Buffon and his friends; it is positively asserted, under a variety of what are called proofs (probably without being so), that the dog-fox and terrier-bitch have frequent intercourse, and produce a fertile progeny in this country.

It has been reported, and is recorded in the "Rural Sports" before-mentioned, that Mr. Tattersal (whose name, residence, and high reputation are too well known to require farther description) was in possession of a terrier-bitch, who bred by a fox, and that the feminine produce of this cross had whelps by other dogs. And, likewise, that the woodman of the manor of Mongewell, in Oxfordshire, had a bitch his constant attendant, the offspring of a tame dog-fox by a shepherd's cur-bitch, and she has again produced puppies by a common dog. These (says Mr. Daniel) are such authentic proofs of the further continuance of the breed, that the wolf and fox may be fairly added to the other supposed original stocks of these faithful domestics.

Such facts, well and indisputably established, would remove the matter beyond general doubt; but, what are considered and called "authentic proofs" by one, may be held in no higher estimation than report by another; a third, a little

 incredulous,

incredulous, may conceive it to border upon the marvellous; and a fourth, more replete with cynical rigidity, may consider such recitals the mere effervescence of fashionable verbosity; retaining an opinion within himself upon the subject, that he is too tenacious to advance till more substantial and public proofs are obtained.

It has been transmitted to us by the antients, that the Indians left their bitches tied in the woods to be warded by the tiger; that two litters of whelps were destroyed, as partaking too much of the fierceness of the sire; but, that the third litter was kept, as superlatively excellent for their hunting. This is authority of too much antiquity to be strictly scrutinized---nor can it, at this remote period of time, be disproved; but, an honest plain-speaking Hibernian, upon hearing the passage recited, would probably exclaim, with his usual irony---"And, by my soul, the hills are green a great way off!"

The more the writings of the antients are explored; the more the re-echoed conjectures of the moderns examined, from Aristotle among the former, to the most servile imitator of Buffon among the latter, the same system of conjecture and uncertainty still prevails. The latter does not absolutely pretend to affirm, "that the jackal, or even the wolf and fox, in no age or country, never intermixed with dogs," but observes, the contrary is positively asserted by his predecessors upon the same subject. Aristotle, in treating upon the generative properties of animals, remarks, that although animals of different species seldom intermingle, yet it certainly prevails among dogs, foxes, and wolves; and adds, that the Indian dog proceeds from a wild beast of similar formation by copulative communication with the dog. This wild beast (to which, by the bye, he gave no name) is conjectured, by his most learned commentators, to have been the jackal; but he, in another part of the same history of the animal creation, positively asserts, that the Indian dog is produced from a commixture between the tiger and the dog only.

This suggestion is considered extremely improbable, because the tiger is known both in form and disposition, to differ much more from the dog than either the wolf, the fox, or the jackal. Aristotle, it must be impartially admitted, seems to confound, if not to violate, the argument he advances; for, after decisively asserting, that the Indian dogs proceed from a communication between a wild beast (similar to the wolf or fox), he affirms, in a future page,

that

that they are produced from the tiger only, but without the least authoritative information whether the conjunction was made between the dog and the tigress, or between the tiger and the female of the canine species.

By way of supporting the theses thus laid down, he observes, that "the affair did not succeed till the third trial; that the first litter consisted solely of tigers; the dogs were chained in the desarts, and, unless the tiger was in season, they were often devoured; that the great heat and scarcity of water made the production of monsters and prodigies very frequent in Africa, because numbers of animals were obliged to assemble in the same place in order to drink, where they often grew familiar, and coupled together." Upon the perusal of a passage so extraordinary in itself, and so remote from the present period, the ruminating reader, intent upon investigation, will not omit to recollect, that in all cases where demonstration cannot possibly be obtained, bold assertion is distinctly one thing, positive proof another; but, in the present, he has no alternative but the gratification of his own fertile imagination.

It may probably be thought, by those possessing the superior and happy power of reasoning, that such opinions, although transmitted from one generation to another by the most distinguished literary authority, are not only hypothetical and uncertain, but suspicious, and unworthy of being believed; and these doubts will arise with redoubled force, when we are convinced, by experience, that the more accurately we analyze the natural propensities of animals in general, the more we palpably perceive that instinct alone is the unerring criterion by which such judgment can be candidly formed. Upon the most judicious inspection, and anatomical investigation of animals, we discover very slight differences in the internal formation; as, for instance, in the horse and the ass, the internal structure is precisely the same in every organ, yet but few things can be more opposite in their natures. The internal parts of the bull, the ram, and the he-goat, are critically the same; yet they constitute three species more remote from each other than the horse and the ass.

The same remark becomes incontrovertibly applicable to the dog, the fox, and the wolf; but more light will, probably, be thrown upon the subject by permitting the external form to constitute but one collateral branch of the consideration. In species which are not far remote from each other, there are even

externally

externally, more similitudes than contrarieties, and yet this inspection is not sufficient to determine decisively, whether they belong to the same, or are entitled to class in a different species. When the shades of difference are still lighter, and less powerful in effect upon the mind of anxious enquiry and investigation, all possible information must be derived from every possible intuitive allusion to instinct: as it is evidently from the predominant, distinguishing traits, dispositions, and prevalent propensities of animals that we are enabled to judge of their natures, and to form an opinion of their relative faculties, for it can by no means be considered irrational to conclude, two animals may not be dissimilar in their formation (either external or internal), but exceedingly different in their dispositions; so much so, that they would neither join, associate, or copulate together, but continue two distinct and separate species.

Of the thirty-seven varieties, or races of dogs given in the genealogical table of Buffon, seventeen, he says, ought to be ascribed to the influence of climate; namely,

THE SHEPHERD'S DOG
SIBERIAN DOG
IRISH GREYHOUND
MASTIFF
GREAT DANISH DOG
HARRIER
SPANIEL
SMALL SPANISH DOG
BULL DOG
THE POMERANIAN DOG
ICELAND DOG
LAPLAND DOG
COMMON GREYHOUND
HOUND
TERRIER
WATER DOG
TURKISH DOG.

The remainder, he observes, including the King Charles's dog, are nothing but mongrels produced by the commixture of the above seventeen races; and, by tracing each of these back to the two races from which they sprung, their natures, will then be sufficiently ascertained; but, if a desire be entertained to discover the relations which subsist between the first seventeen races, attention must be paid to their formation and figure, their peculiar instincts, and such other corresponding considerations as may afford additional strength to the investigation. He has placed in one point of view, and ranked in one class, the Shepherd's dog; the Pomeranian dog; the Siberian dog; the Lapland and the Iceland dogs, because

because a much stronger and much more palpable resemblance has taken place between them, than between any of the other kinds; and, because all of them have sharp muzzles like the fox, erect ears, and an instinctive propensity to the protection of flocks.

The greyhound, the large Danish dog, and the Irish greyhound have, exclusive of their likeness of figure and length of muzzle, a similitude in disposition. They are naturally fond of running, and a succession of new and moving objects; hence their fondness for, and attachment to horses and carriages; they possess the power of scent in a less degree than any other of the whole species, and are consequently much more gratified by objects of sight than any great enjoyment to be derived from the nose. The hounds, harriers, spaniels, terriers, aud water dogs, are the only true hunting dogs who find and pursue their game by the scent; and, although they differ some few degrees in size and figure, they have equally thick muzzles and similar instincts, and therefore may, with consistency, be ranked in the same class. Of spaniels there are different sorts, as the land and the water spaniel; but the difference is merely this, that the latter, long-haired and woolly-coated for the purpose, takes the water with more alacrity than the former, whose pursuits and employments are of an opposite description.

The small Danish dog, and the Turkish Dog, are classed together upon the presumption, that in the origin they were one and the same race, but that the latter has been deprived of its hair by the intemperate heat of the climate to which he was formerly transported. The bull dog seems to stand alone an acknowledged uncontaminated individual native of Britain, hardy as its emblematic oak; not only equally peculiar to the country, but equally invulnerable to the infectious principles of pollution. Those who are considered oblique crosses from the bull dog, are the mastiff, the little Danish, and the pug dog, who are all known to resemble him in shape; in the shortness of their muzzles; in their having but little scent in pursuit; and, their emitting an effluvia from their bodies, which render them inconvenient and disagreeable inmates.

The peculiar irritability of the olfactory sensation seems, by natural observation, to depend more on the largeness, than the length of the nose; for the greyhound, the large Danish dog, and the Irish greyhound, have evidently less power of scent than the hound, the harrier, the terrier, the spaniel, or the

water dog, who have all, in proportion to their size, shorter, but broader muzzles than either of the former. The superiority the latter class possesses over every other, in respect to the excellence and acuteness of this particular sense, is sufficiently demonstrative of the purposes to which it was the benign intention of providence they should become peculiarly appropriate; and lays at rest the cynical cavil of those religious bigots and petulant pedants, who are incessantly harping upon the cruelty of the chase, and the sports of the field.

In elucidation of the theses advanced by Buffon, that the same race of dogs shall, in different climates, be totally changed from the appearance of the original stock in only two generations, he produces, for the sake of metaphorical allusion and conviction, the following reasoning:—The shepherd's dog he calls the root of the tree, and says, this dog, when transported to Lapland, or very cold climates, assumes an ugly appearance, and is contracted, by the effect of the frigid atmosphere, to a much smaller size; but in Russia, Iceland, and Siberia, where the climate is less rigorous, and the people some shades nearer civilization, the same kind of dog is better accommodated and less changed. These changes (he continues) are occasioned solely by the influence of those climates, which produce no great alteration in the figure of the dog; for, in each of these climates, his ears are erect; his hair thick and long; his aspect wild; and he barks less frequently, and in a different manner, than in more favourable climates where he acquires a finer polish. The Iceland is the only one that has not his ears entirely erect—for their extremities are a little inclined; and Iceland, of all the northern regions, has been longest inhabited by the half-civilized part of mankind.

The same shepherd's dog, he proceeds, when brought into temperate climes, and among a people perfectly civilized, as Britain, France, and Germany, would, by the mere influence of climate, lose his savage aspect; his erect ears; his rude, thick, long hair, and assume the figure of a bull dog, the hound, or the Irish greyhound. The bull dog and Irish greyhound have thin ears, still partly erect, and very much resemble, both in their manners and sanguinary temper, the dog from which they derive their origin. The hound is evidently the farthest removed, in similitude, from the shepherd's dog; for his ears are long, soft, and entirely pendulous. The gentleness, docility, and subservient timidity of the hound, are sufficient proofs (if descended from the shepherd's

dog)

dog) of the wonderful perfection he has acquired by the long and careful education bestowed upon him by his protector, man.

The hound, the harrier, and the terrier, it has been before observed, are included in one class, and said to appertain only to one race; yet, to render such speculative assertion the more inexplicable, three whelps have been produced at one litter, who, as they grew up, proved to bear the distinct and individual appearance of a hound, a harrier, and a terrier, although the copulative communication had taken place with one of the three only. Buffon's reason for uniting the harrier to the Dalmatian dog (commonly called the common harrier of Bengal) is, because they differ but little in the greater or lesser number of spots they have upon their coats. He has also linked the turnspit with the terrier, merely because it is his opinion, the defect in the legs of the former originated in a disease similar to the rickets with which some of the human species are afflicted, and they have transmitted this deformity to their descendants. This suggestion of Buffon's might have been entitled to speculative controversy, upon the scientific principle, that however the hereditary transmission of the gout from sire to son may be admitted as dependent upon the juices, few might concur in the idea of ossified deformity being, by the same means, transmitted to posterity. Such doubt, if it could, or probably might have been entertained, is now completely eradicated; for, in the immediate neighbourhood of the writer, in a large street west of Hyde-Park Corner, is a numerous and independent family, with every child, male and female, retaining the spinal deformity, and contracted frame of the father.

Buffon, in pursuing his chain of corroboration upon the influence of climate, supports his hypothesis, by assuring us (according to the system he has laid down), that the hound, when transported into Spain, or Barbary, where all animals have fine, long, bushy hair, would be converted into the spaniel and water-dog. The great and small spaniel, which differ only in size when brought into Britain, have changed their white colour into black, and become, by the influence of climate, the great and little dog, denominated King Charles's breed. The Irish greyhound, conveyed to the north, is become the great Danish dog; and, when carried to the south, became the common greyhound. The largest greyhounds are brought from the Levant; those of a somewhat similar size from Italy; and, these permitted to propagate in Britain, are still farther diminished.

diminished. The great Danish dog, taken from thence to Ireland, the Ukraine, Tartary, Epirus, and Albania, has been changed into the Irish greyhound, which is the largest of all dogs.

The bull dog, transported from Britain to Denmark, is become the little Danish dog; and, the latter brought into warmer climates, is converted into the Turkish dog. All these races, with their varieties (says he), have been produced by climate, joined to the effects of shelter, food, and education. The other dogs are none of them pure races, but the produce of commixtures already described. The greyhound, and Irish greyhound, have produced the mongrel greyhound; called also the greyhound with wolf's hair. The great Danish dog and the large spaniel have produced the Calabrian dog, which is a beautiful animal, with long bushy hair, and as large as the Irish greyhound. The spaniel and terrier have produced a dog called Burgos. From the little Danish dog and spaniel proceeded the lion dog, which is now very scarce, and seldom to be seen. The dogs with long, fine, crisped hair, called the Bouffe dogs, and which are larger than the water dog, are a produce from the spaniel and water dog. The little water dog comes from the water dog and small spaniel.

From the bull dog and Irish greyhound, he pronounces the mastiff to have been produced; which, says he, is larger than the bull dog, and is a nearer resemblance to him than the Irish greyhound. The pug dog is from the bull dog and small Danish dog. All these he terms simple mongrels, and says they are produced by the commixture of two pure races: but there are other dogs, called double mongrels, because they are produced from a junction of a pure race with a mongrel. The bastard pug dog is a double mongrel, from a mixture of the pug dog with the little Dane. The Alicant dog is likewise a double mongrel, proceeding from the pug dog and small spaniel. The Maltese, or lap dog, is a double mongrel, produced between the small spaniel and little water dog. He concludes his subject by acknowledging there are others which may be called triple mongrels, from being the produce of two mixed races; and, lastly (what is the simple fact) that there are a great infinity (which he calls street-dogs) coming under no particular kind, and to these there can neither appertain appropriate name, or applicable description.

Adverting, in retrospection, to the various experiments made, and literary allusions to the probability of a copulative communication having taken place between the dog and fox, wolf, or such other wild animals as the ancients have laboured, (as well as some of our recent writers) to prove; the most incredulous, upon reflection, must feel inclined to admit, that, without such occasional or accidental crosses introduced by some inexplicable means, both in this and other countries, so great an infinity of races, and so great a variety of dogs, could never have branched out in such a diversity of distinctions from only one species of the animal creation.

In respect to the propagation of the canine species, there is a periodical uterine irritability of the female, which is conveyed to the olfactory sensations of the dog, by an effluvia so predominant in its attraction, that a bitch in this state, at a farm or lonely house, situate at half a mile and more distance from town, or village, will never stand in need of admirers. This disposition in the female, (from its commencement to its total termination) is seldom or ever less than eighteen days, the first seven or eight of which is a continued scene of wanton dalliance, but no consummation takes place. The external parts relax, become prominent, and a sanguinary appearance is observed; the dog is at all times ready, eager, and violent; indeed, so very much so, that, when contending rivals are present, the most dreadful battles ensue, and not unfrequently two or three at the same time. From one single act of copulation completed, without interruption, four, five, or six young may be produced: notwithstanding which, if not restrained, or kept in confinement, she will admit a succession of dogs daily; and, what renders this circumstance a little extraordinary is, that however great the number may be, or how long continued, no convincing proof of satiety is ever displayed.

The female seems totally ignorant of, and inattentive to, any distinct individual; no preference, no predilection ever appears; she presents herself equally to all, and the largest and most powerful is generally brought into action; hence it is so many die in the act of bringing forth the offspring. From a peculiarity in the construction of the parts necessary to generation in the canine species, they are prevented the power of separating spontaneously, or by mutual consent during the act, however they may be alarmed, or threatened with surrounding danger. Where they are permitted to run about, and appear in such state before the habitations of the respectable in cities, towns, and villages, it is a most

disgusting

disgusting, shameful spectacle; and there is, perhaps, no nuisance stands more in need of compulsive reformation.

The time of gestation, from the cessation of the furor uterinus to the time of bringing forth, is nine weeks, or sixty-three days, never varying more than a day or two, unless a bodily injury has been sustained, when a premature delivery may be brought on, and attended with similar difficulties, as well as with various other parts of the creation. Puppies are sometimes naturally protruded alive, and others left dead in the body, upon the extraction of which the life of the bitch entirely depends; in such predicament there is no alternative to the Cæsarian operation, which the hand of the writer has performed with success upon a beautiful pointer-bitch, saving her life and a brace of her offspring. The whelps or puppies cannot be termed complete immediately after their birth, but are invariably brought forth blind; the eye-lids are not simply united by any adhesive, glutinous property, but perfectly closed with a membranous substance, which, at the expiration of the ninth day, is become so distended, that the expansive force of the upper eye-lid has then sufficient power to rupture the filament, and overcome the obstruction.

The females produce about twice in twelve or fourteen months, and the average extent from four to seven at each birth; the largest are most prolific, producing, in general, the greater number of puppies, some of the smaller having seldom more than three or four. The males continue to propagate during the greater part of their lives, which is nearly limited to thirteen or fourteen years, when they become perceptibly enfeebled, although some few attain their twentieth year. The duration of the dog's life seems, as is the case with most other animals, proportioned to the time of his growth, which being nearly or full two years before he acquires his full growth and perfect strength, so his powers are almost extinct in seven times that period. The age of a dog may, at all times, be pretty well known by an examination of the teeth; in the earlier years, they are exceedingly white, and sharp pointed; but, the father he advances in life, the more they become covered with calculous scales near the gums, discoloured in all parts, and blunt, jagged, and unequal at their points; but, a still more certain indication of age, is the grey and hoary tinge above the nose to the eyes, and upon the front; these begin to appear about the tenth or eleventh year, and continue to increase till the last stage of life.

Puppies, though brought forth blind, with the muzzle short and bloated, and other faculties imperfect, soon become possessed of the powers of observation; at the end of two months they begin to display the use of all their senses, they grow rapidly, and attain strength according to their size. In the fifth and sixth months they begin shedding their teeth, which are replaced by others that never again exfoliate. In the early state, both male and female squat during the evacuation of urine; but, when getting nearly twelvemonths old, the dog raises his hind leg, and discharges against either a post or wall; and, about this time it is, that he begins to possess the powers of procreation. Without attempting to enlarge more upon the speculative opinions of the most enlightened and indefatigable naturalists, it must, to an attentive observer, be matter of admiration to ruminate upon the diversity of changes—the variegation in forms—and, the incessant novelties, which every where present themselves, as the effect of a promiscuous and unrestrained intercourse between the different complicated races that so numerously surround us. And, as no study of investigation can possibly be more discouraging to the energetic mind of philosophic enquiry, than that particular attempt at analization, where no first principles can possibly be obtained, so nothing could be more obtrusive, or less satisfactory, than to proceed farther in the deep recesses of abstrusity, from whence so little gratification is likely to be derived.

GREYHOUND.

AMONG such observations as have been already made, the greyhound is supposed to have originated in that particular kind of dog denominated by Buffon the Irish greyhound; but rendered thinner and more delicate by the influence of climate; and, brought to its present state of speed and perfection, by the persevering power, care, and attention of man. Whatever truth there may be in the adoption of such idea, the similitude of shape, make, and form, will be readily admitted; particularly in the depth of the chest; the smallness of the muzzle; the light airyness of the carcase, and the length of the legs. The greyhound is universally known to be the fleetest of the canine species; from this circumstance it was selected as the only dog fit for the sport to which it is now become solely appropriate. We derive no information from record why, or when the name of greyhound was taken up, or for what reason, it being evidently demonstrable, that gazehound was the original appellation in applicable allusion to that particular kind of dog running by sight and not by scent.

The greyhound is of a beautiful and delicate formation for speed and majestic attraction: if a metaphorical allusion may be made between the human and the brute creation, the allegory would not be too far extended in considering the greyhound, from his appearance, equanimity, mildness, and affability, one of the superior classes of his own society; he possesses all the dignity, without the degradation of any part of his species, and is never seen but with a predilection in his favour. They have been for many centuries in the highest estimation in this country; and, in the remoter times of King John, greyhounds were accepted by him as payment in lieu of money, for the renewal of grants, fines, and forfeitures due to the crown. One fine paid to this monarch upon record, 1203, specifies, "five hundred marks, ten horses, and ten leashes of greyhounds;" another, in seven years after, "one swift running horse, and six greyhounds."

The

P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx.   J. Scott Sculpsit.

GREYHOUND.

The Rev. W. B. Daniel, in his "Rural Sports," observes, that the greyhound, in ancient times, was considered as a very valuable present, and particularly by the ladies, to whom a compliment so intrinsically estimated was singularly acceptable. The Isle of Dogs, now converted to the great purpose of a commercial reservoir for the West-India shipping, derived its name from being the receptacle for the greyhounds and spaniels of Edward the Third; and, the spot was selected for its contiguity to Waltham, and the other royal forests where coursing could be enjoyed; for the more convenient completion of which, during the sporting season, he frequently took up his residence at Greenwich. In those times the business of coursing principally appertained to deer; and Queen Elizabeth, when not personally disposed to hunt, was frequently so stationed as to see the coursing of deer with greyhounds. At Cowdrey Park, in Sussex, the seat of Lord Montecute, A. D. 1591, the queen saw, from a turret, sixteen bucks, all having fair law, pulled down by greyhounds upon the lawn, one day after dinner.

Since which time, the deer, the fox, and the hare have each been coursed by greyhounds, according to the fashion of the people and the custom of the times; the two former are now seldom or ever resorted to; but, the coursing of deer was formerly in high estimation with the most opulent distinguished characters in the kingdom, and thus divided into paddock or forest coursing. The spot appropriated to the former, was generally a piece of ground taken out of a park, and consequently parallel thereto; this was about a mile in length, a quarter of a mile in breadth, fenced in with a wall or pales, and broader at the opposite end, than where the greyhounds started from, the better to accommodate the company in seeing the match, as well as which dog won. At the hither end was the dog-house, to enclose and contain the dogs who were engaged to run the match; along the mile-course were placed posts; the first was termed the law-post, and distant from the dog-house one hundred and sixty yards; the second was the quarter of a mile: the third the half mile; the fourth the pinching-post; and, the fifth marked distance; in lieu of a post, was the ditch, which was a place so constructed as to receive the deer, and prevent their being further pursued by the greyhounds. Near to this place were elevated seats for those previously selected as judges to decide the wager. This kind of coursing has, however, been long buried in oblivion, and greyhounds are never employed with deer but for the purpose of running down the fawns of fallow deer in parks, during the summer season, for the reduction of the number, that the park or district may not be overstocked.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when coursing had attained a certain degree of fashion and celebrity, the laws of coursing were drawn up, instituted and established by the Duke of Norfolk, and acceded to at that time by the nobility and gentry who were amateurs of the sport; and the purport of the whole are still resorted to in all cases where judgment is to be made, or a decision required. The feuterer, or person whose province it was to let loose the greyhounds, was to receive those that were matched to run together into his leash so soon as he came into the field; and to follow next to the hare-finder, or him that was to start the hare, until he came to the form; and no horse or footmen were to go before, or on either side, but directly behind, and at no less than forty yards distance.

No hare to be coursed with more than a brace of greyhounds.

The hare-finder to give the hare three sohos before he put her from her form, that the dogs might have notice to attend her being started.

The hare to have law of twelve score yards before the greyhounds were loosed, unless the small distance between the hare and the covert would not admit it without the danger of immediately losing her.

The dog that gave the first turn, and during the course, if there was neither cote, slip, nor wrench, won.

A cote is when a greyhound goes endways by his fellow, and gives the hare a turn.

A cote served for two turns, and two trippings or jerkins for a cote; if the hare did not turn quite about, she only wrenched, and two wrenches stand for a turn.

If there were no cotes given between a brace of greyhounds, but that one of them served the other at turning, then he, that gave the hare most turns, won; and, if one gave as many turns as the other, then he, that bore the hare, won.

If one dog gave the first turn, and the other bore the hare, he, that bore the hare, won.

A go-by

A go-by, or bearing the hare, was equivalent to two turns.

If neither dog turned the hare, he that led last to the covert won.

If one dog turned the hare, served himself, and turned her again, it was as much as a cote—for a cote was esteemed two turns.

If all the course was equal, the dog that bore the hare won; if the hare was not borne, the course was adjudged dead, that is undecided.

If a dog fell in a course, and yet performed his part, he might challenge the advantage a turn more than he gave.

If a dog turned the hare, served himself, and gave divers cotes, and yet in the end stood still in the field, the other dog, if he ran home to the covert, although he gave no turn, was adjudged the winner.

If, by accident, a dog was run over in his course, the course was void, and he that did the mischief was to make reparation for the damage.

If a dog gave the first and last turn, and there was no other advantage between them, he that gave the odd turn won.

He that came in first at the death, took up the hare, saved her from being torn, cherished the dogs, and cleansed their mouths from the fleck, was allowed to retain the hare for his trouble.

And those who were appointed judges of the course were to give their decision before they departed from the field.

Coursing has always continued a sport in high estimation with various eminent and opulent individuals in every part of the kingdom; and, in the last few years, seems to have emerged from its temporary suspension with renovated splendor; although its attractions have not, in the present reign, rendered it a royal sport, as, in earlier periods, yet it has, by mere dint of its own native simplicity, attained an unprecedented zenith of celebrity, personal patronage, and individual enjoyment amongst the most fashionable and distinguished characters

in different districts of the kingdom; various societies and associations are established for the promotion of so emulative and rational a sport, in which there can be obtruded no deceptive practices, as upon the turf and the sod, by the hands of designing subordinates, or interested individuals.

The first ray of its present popularity appeared in 1776, under sanction of the late Earl of Orford, who instituted, in that year

THE SWAFFHAM COURSING SOCIETY,

under certain rules and regulations, of which the preliminary outlines were as follow:—The members were confined in their number to the letters in the alphabet, and the matched dogs of each member were always to bear a name beginning with the initial annexed to his own name as a member of the club. When a member dies, or signifies his intention of resigning, his place, by the rules of the society, is always filled up by ballot. Upon the decease of the noble lord, their founder, it was unanimously agreed, by the members of the club, to purchase a silver-cup, of twenty-five guineas value, to be run for in November of every year, as a commemoration of respect to the memory of their founder, by gracing the sideboard of the different winners in various parts of the kingdom.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Every member to pay annually in November, one guinea to the treasurer, to defray the expenses of the society; and half-a-guinea in February, as a fund for purchasing the cup to be run for in November following.

2. If any member absents himself for two meetings, without sending what shall be judged a sufficient excuse, by a majority of not less than thirteen members, he shall be deemed out of the society, and another chosen in his place.

3. Every vacancy to be filled up by ballot, and three black balls to exclude. Thirteen members to make a ballot; the names of the candidates must be hung up in the dining-room three days preceding.

4. No

4. No stranger to be admitted into the society's room, unless introduced by a member, who is to put down the stranger's name on a paper, which is every day to be hung up in the dining-room; and no member to introduce above one friend.

5. Every member who attends a meeting shall produce and match one greyhound, or forfeit one guinea to the treasurer, to be disposed of as a majority of the society may think proper.

6. Two stewards are to be named each night for the succeeding day, by the stewards of the day then present.

7. The stewards are to appoint each an assistant member in the field, to regulate the number of beaters, situation of the company and servants; to determine what part of the field to beat, and to preside at dinner. Each steward and his assistant to wear a cockade of his own colour.

8. The owners of the dogs mached are to nominate one or more judges, who are to decide all courses, whether long or short, provided there be an evident superiority in favour of one of the dogs.

9. Any member may put up to auction the dog of a member, who (notice being given) must be present, and has the liberty of bidding once.

10. All future meetings to be held on the second Monday in November, and on the first Monday in February, unless prevented by frost or snow, in which case all matches made previous to such meetings are off; and the meetings shall be held the first open Monday in or after November, and the first open Monday in February, and not later.

SOCIETY.

The Marchioness Townsend	*Lady Patroness.*
The Countess Cholmondely	*Vice Patroness.*
Mrs. Coke	*Assistant Vice Patroness.*
And the Earl of Montrath	*Honorary Member.*

Have the liberty to use any letter or colour.

In the year 1798, the members, letters, and colours, belonging to each, were as follow:

LETTER.	MEMBERS.	COLOUR.
A	Mr. Colhoun	*Red, White, and Blue.*
B	Mr. Holt	*Brimstone.*
C	Mr. Coffin	*Yellow.*
D	Mr. Pottinger	*White.*
E	Marquis townshend	*Blue and White.*
F	Earl Cholmondely	*Pink.*
G	(then vacant)	*White and Purple.*
H	Mr. Dashwood	*Pea Green.*
I	Mr. Micklethwaite	*Red and White.*
K	Mr. Nelthorpe	*Rose.*
L	Mr. Motteux	*Green and White.*
M	Mr. James Parson	*White and Black.*
N	Mr. Denton	*Sky Blue.*
O	Mr. Wilson	*Lilac.*
P	Sir John Sebright	*Garter Blue.*
Q	Mr. Hammond	*Quaker.*
R	Mr. Hare	*Red.*
S	Mr. Crowe	*Orange.*
T	Mr. Tyssen	*Pompadour.*
U	Sir Samuel Fludyer	*Aurora.*
V	Sir John Berney	*Brown and Red.*
W	Mr. Woodley	*White and Crimson.*
X	Mr. Cooper	*Yellow and Green.*
Y	Mr. James, Junior	*Orange and Black.*
Z	Mr. Forby	*Red and Blue.*

The

The rules by which a match in coursing is decided in different counties, may vary in some one particular point or another, but not in any material degree; for instance, in Wiltshire, as far as relate to the greyhounds in the field, that dog who has the most of the course is the winner, whether he is the dog who kills the hare or not; and that, if a dog stops in any part of the course, and does not run home, it is always decided against him. Slips are recently invented upon a new construction, and universally adopted; being contrived with so much ingenuity, though upon an easy principle, that it is impossible for either dog to have the least advantage given him at starting.

The annually increasing celebrity of the Swaffham Coursing Society was soon productive of similar meetings, associations, institutions, and establishments in different parts of the kingdom, sanctioned by the liberal and opulent in every district where they have been introduced. Of these there now are the Ashdown-Park Meeting, at Lambourn, in Berkshire, instituted and established by Lord Craven, Lord Ashbrook, and Lord Sefton; the Bradwell and Tillingham Club, in Essex, sanctioned and promoted by the Rev. B. Dudley; the Flixton Wolds Meeting, in Yorkshire, under the joint and indefatigable auspices of Col. Thornton and Major Topham, to whose energy and example, in improving the breed, and promoting the sport, may be almost entirely attributed its present fashionable popularity from one extremity of the kingdom to the other.

RULES

OF

THE ASHDOWN-PARK CONSOLIDATED COURSING MEETING,

Held at the Red-Lion Inn, Lambourn, Berkshire, annually on the second Monday in November. The society consists of thirty members, who bind themselves by the following regulations:—

1. Each member is expected to appear at the table in the uniform selected by the Patronesses. The honorary members have permission to wear the uniform also.

2. A steward to be named at each meeting, for the meeting next ensuing, by a majority of the members then present; and, if the steward so appointed, or his deputy, fails to attend, he forfeits a dozen of port wine for the omission.

3. Honorary

3. Honorary members to be entitled to the privileges of real members during their attendance, except in balloting or entering for the prizes, but to be subject to no forfeitures.

4. No meeting to be held for a shorter time than two days, and every member to pay two shillings and sixpence for each day's ordinary, whether he attends or not. Two meetings only to be held in each year; the second Monday in February, and the second Monday in November.

5. No stranger to be admitted to the ordinary unless introduced by a member; and no member to introduce more than one friend each day, whose name is to be placed, with that of the member who introduces him, in a conspicuous part of the club-room, by the introducing member on his admission; and each member is to subscribe one guinea annually.

6. If any vacancy happens, it is to be declared, by the president, the first day of coursing after dinner; and, if more than one person is proposed to fill it, the names of each candidate to be given to every subscriber then present, who is to put into a box the name of the candidate he wishes for; and the gentleman who shall have the majority of the votes of real members, to be considered as duly elected, and may name a dog for the collar on the following day upon paying his subscription. If the numbers upon the ballot shall be even, the names of the candidates to be put together, and the first draw to fill the vacancy.

7. The steward to appoint two gentlemen each day, who shall regulate the number of beaters; mode and place of beating; and, situation of the company and servants.

8. The mode of running, decision, &c. to be conformable to the following rules: No dog, the property of a stranger, shall be permitted to run before the members have run the matches for the day.

9. The judge, if possible, to decide every race for the collar or other prize; if he cannot determine, the parties concerned in the match must either run it again immediately, or decide it by a toss.

10. If any dog should slip, or by accident join during the course, the owner of the dog so slipt, or joining, shall pay to the keeper half-a-guinea.

11. All matches to be entered in the order they are made, and to be run off as they stand in the list. If any gentlemen, when it comes to their turn to run, are not ready, or wish to postpone the match, it is to be put at the bottom of that day's list, and to be run last.

12. Any gentleman who, after judgment given, arraigns the decision, or finds fault with the judge, to be amerced a gallon of wine at the pleasure of the subscribers.

13. Any difference or dispute that may arise, to be referred to the subscribers then present, and their determination to be final.

14. No rule to be changed without notice being given at a meeting of the club, and the alteration must be approved of by seven members, at least, of the first subsequent meeting (if seven are present), when the president is required to bring forward all questions, which are to be decided by the ballot of the members of the club.

15. No dog will be permitted to start for either prize or match during the meeting, which is not the property of a member, or actually brought by one to the meeting.

16. That every newly elected member do pay two guineas to the fund of the club on admission. Honorary members one.

LADY PATRONESSES.

COUNTESS OF SEFTON
HON. MRS. ST. JOHN
HON. MRS. MADDOCKS
MRS. PICKERING.

MEMBERS.

LORD CRAVEN
MR. THORNHILL
MR. STEAD
MR. DUNDAS
DR. VILET
MR. PROUSE
MR. WROUGHTON
MR. BULLOCK
MR. NOBLE
LORD SEFTON
MR. MADDOX
MR. HALLETT
COL. STEAD
SIR T. THROCKMORTON
MR. BAKER
MR. DEALTRY
MR. S. HEATHCOTE
MR. WOOLRYCH
LORD ASHBROOK
MR. PICKERING
MR. JAMES
MR. G. WYLD
MR. THOYTS
MR. GOODLAKE
MR. CORSELLIS
MR. KENNETT
MR. WILLIAMS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SWAFFHAM COURSING SOCIETY.

MR. ANNESLEY
MR. MANSFIELD
MR. WATTS
MR. J. WYLD
MR. J. CRAVEN
MR. WILLIAMS
MR. BLAGRAVE
HON. COL. ST. JOHN
COL. WARNFORD
MR. HIPPESLEY
MR. J. HARRINGTON
SIR C. MALLET
MR. SAWBRIDGE
MR. B. PRICE
MR. ATKINS
HON. BERKELEY CRAVEN
MR. BAILEY
MR. NUNES.

A part of the fifth regulation by which each member is required to pay annually one guinea towards the cup and couples having been inadvertently neglected, it has been more particularly enjoined that each member shall punctually pay, or, in case of non-attendance, cause to be paid by some friend, before, or at the meeting in November, the said guinea to Mr. Thornhill, the treasurer for the club.

The foundation-stone of the present coursing popularity was laid by the late Lord Orford, and the superstructure completed by the exertions of the different amateurs already recited; who have been so individually anxious in the improvement of the breed, that it may fairly be concluded to have at length reached the utmost summit of possible perfection, and the pedigrees of the most speedy and celebrated greyhounds now begin to be recorded with as much care and precision as the best bred horses upon the turf. This seems to have principally originated with Colonel Thornton and Major Topham, both of whom, with some very trifling shades of exception, have for many years been in sole possession of the most distinguished breed in the kingdom. Czarina, Jupiter, Claret, Snowball, Miller, Schoolboy, and Major, have all been of the highest celebrity, and are entitled to individual description.

Czarina was bred by the late Lord Orford, and purchased at the sale after his lordship's decease, by Colonel Thornton, with an intent to cross and improve the breed at Thornville Royal; in a completion of which he has been most amply gratified. In the character of this bitch there were two remarkable traits: she won forty seven matches without ever having been beat; and shewed no signs of producing progeny till she had completed her thirteenth year, when she brought forth eight whelps by Jupiter, all of whom lived, and were excellent runners. She was the dam of Claret and young Czarina, both of which challenged all Yorkshire, and won their matches.

Snowball and Major were own brothers, who have proved superior to every other breed and blood in the imperial dominions. They were got by Claret out of a favourite bitch of Major Topham's; and a brace of the whelps (of which the now justly celebrated Major was one) were sent to Colonel Thornton; as in fact a sporting privilege for the use of the dog. Snowball was concluded, when taken "for all in all," to have been the most perfect greyhound ever produced. He won four cups, couples, and upwards of thirty matches at Malton, and

and upon the Wolds, in Yorkshire, and so beat a dog of Mr. Plumer's, that the dog died immediately after the course was concluded. Snowball was never equally faced in the field but by his own blood; having in exercise and private trials always appeared some shades inferior to his brother Major, and his aunt, yellow Czarina. In the November Malton-coursing meeting, 1799, a Scotch greyhound was produced, who having beat every opponent in Scotland, was brought to England, and challenged any dog in the kingdom; the challenge was accepted by Snowball, when, after a course of more than two miles, the match (upon which considerable sums were depending) was decided in his favor.

In the year 1792, Schoolboy, the property of T. Clark, Esq. (commonly called Vauxhall Clark), was a greyhound of much sporting celebrity at Newmarket, and in its vicinity. He was bred by Sir C. Bunbury, Bart, and got by Dr. Fampton's Fop out of Sir Charles's Miss: he ran a great number of matches over Newmarket, upon which very large sums were frequently depending, and never was beat. He was the sire of Troy, Traveller, Lilly, and others, very good runners, many of whom have been sold for twenty guineas each.

That highly celebrated dog called the Miller, bred by the Rev. H. B. Dudley, had little to boast upon the score of pedigree, having by individual merit run himself into local popularity. During the first nine months, he was so exceedingly awkward, heavy, clumsy, and unpromising, that no thoughts were entertained of bringing him into the field; the book of fate seems, however to have contained predictive pages in his favor: various vicissitudes are observed in the human as well as the animal creation; many a substantial city subordinate (originally from the tail of a plough), has become the chief magistrate of the first commercial city in the world. The Miller, upon a sporting emergency when only twelve months old, was borrowed of the owner by a friend, who going to the marshes in St. Osyth, did not like to appear without having a sporting-like appendage in his retinue; alike "unknowing and unknown," he was introduced to the honours of the day, winning several matches against the best dogs in the field. Returning with this sudden and unexpected blaze of reputation, he was received into personal favor, considered worthy of confidence, appointed to a place in the administration, and admitted into the cabinet-council of the canine department. Having thus raised himself by the peculiar merit of personal precedence, from the recesses of obscurity to a degree of sporting eminence, and absolutely run

himself

himself into reputation, he became occasionally introduced to the most powerful and popular opponents; where, however, he for seven years continued to maintain his superiority over every dog brought against him; winning, during that time, seventy-four successive matches, without having been once beaten. Miller is, at present, a stallion of great estimation, and his produce prove excellent runners.

Amidst these recitals of sporting celebrity, it should seem the long contested laurel of superiority has been hitherto suspended, that it might with the more distinguished lustre adorn the brow of Major (the brother of Snowball), of whom a most accurate representation is given in the plate annexed. The performances of this most wonderful dog are too numerous for individual recital; it must therefore suffice to remark in the aggregate; that after having established his reputation upon a basis too firm to be shaken by the jaundiced eye of envy or discontent; after having won every match for which he had started, and acquired a degree of fame not to be sullied by any thing that could possibly follow; challenges, "oblique or indirect," transpired from the northern parts of the kingdom, that the greyhounds appertaining to the Wolds of Flixton, and that district, were ready to start against dogs from any part of England, and for any sum. These found their way into the public prints, and some remarks of the sarcastic kind appearing in the different sporting papers, and periodical publications, the following was soon seen to follow:—

"EXTRA COURSING.

"A challenge, it is said, has been sent by Mr. Durand the (owner of Bellis-"sima) to produce a greyhound to run any of the Snowballs (home and home) "for one thousand guineas.—This may be considered as the largest stake ever "offered upon a match with greyhounds." This, however, was for many months supposed a mere sporting embryo of some fertile imagination, intended as a stimulus to each party, and anxiously expected to bring them to issue; whether that was strictly the case, it is by no means necessary to ascertain. In the beginning of the present year, the diurnal prints announced the match to have been confirmed, and that it was to take place in Surrey before the conclusion of the season. The day of meeting to decide the match between Major and the famous bitch of Mr. Durand's was fixed for Friday, the 25th of March, to run

 for

run for one thousand guineas, play or pay. Mr. Durand's residence had been previously appointed for the place of meeting; and Epsom as the rendezvous of Colonel Thornton and his friends—but it having been suggested that the curiosity of the multitude (so near the metropolis) would totally prevent any possibility of trial or sport; Carshalton was privately proposed, and approved by the parties.

On the day appointed they met upon Sutton Heights, about eleven o'clock, where a number of carriages, and little less than five hundred horsemen graced the scene. The ceremonious congratulations of the morning over (which was beautifully fine), two brace of greyhounds, adorned with blue and buff sheets, were led from the chaise marine; these were followed by Major, sheeted in rich buff colour; on the right side of which, were embroidered the armorial bearings of the Thornton family, on the left, in letters of gold embroidery.

"Major, aut ne plus ultra."

When stripped he appeared fine, gay, airy, and in good condition, though eleven years old; at this moment Mr. Durand came forward, and acknowledged the forfeit, at the same time expressing a wish that the company might be gratified with a sight of Major's performance, for which a box-hare was then ready; this was complied with by Colonel Thornton, who permitted a lively little bitch to accompany Major in the course (intended, perhaps, the better to shew Major's superiority); the hare had very considerable law, and from an error (accidental or intentional) in the slipping, the bitch had fifty or sixty yards the start of Major; the prevalent opinion, with those who knew little of coursing was, that neither would ever be able to turn her; the bitch continuing to gain ground, in a few hundred yards got up to her, soon after which Major reached her likewise, when turning her alternately, Major made a most wonderful spring of many yards, and killed her in a very handsome style.

A second course took place (with a hare found by the company) between Phantasmagoria and the same bitch who ran the first; this afforded much sport, and the hare was killed by the former. The next was a course of much greater attraction; a hare had stolen away unperceived, and was not intended to be run on account of the very great distance from the dogs, but a pedestrian of the round frock psalm-singing fraternity conceiving a bad course would be better

than

than none, vociferated a view halloo so loudly and repeatedly, that he at length prevailed upon the black bitch who had ran the previous courses to obey the signal; catching sight of her in ascending a hill, she went off at her utmost speed. Mr. Beaumont perceiving this, followed at score, and by dint of perseverance and great exertion laid in Major, when the severity of the course exceeded description; the hare and dogs were nearly exhausted, when Major, in the extremity of desperation, threw himself near seven yards at her, caught her, laying himself for dead; the hare, leaving his mouth full of fleek, crept into the ditch and died. The bitch topt the hedge six feet high, expecting the hare had gone through; but, was so exhausted, that she was bled upon the spot to recover her.

The last course for the day was between Phantasmagoria and Supernactaralia, who had a very severe course; while they were running which, a strange and unexpected circumstance occasioned the company to divide. A hare was accidentally started near the spot where Colonel Thornton's greyhounds were fixed ready to be rotationally produced as called for, or occasion might require; when Spectographia (a whelp by Phantasmagoria out of Catgut, sister to Claret and Czarina) broke his couples upon catching sight of her, and in sheets ran up to her, and, after several turns, killed her to the astonishment of the company; many of whom, perhaps, did not recollect the state of the season (when no great speed is required to kill either Jack or Female), the bodily emaciation and debility of one, or the gestation (if not giving suck) of the other, must render it a very improper time to fix for a criterion of excellence, when no hare can be expected to stand long before dogs of even a very inferior description.

The energetic velocity of the greyhound, in pursuit of its game, has always been matter of admiration to the lovers of the sport; but more particularly so to the ruminative amateur when prompted by reflection to form comparisons. Various have been the opinions upon the difference of speed between a well-bred greyhound and a blood-horse of some celebrity, if opposed to each other for a mile, or for any greater or shorter distance. It has, by the best and most experienced judges, been thought, that upon a flat, a horse of this description would prove superior to the greyhound, for either an extended or a contracted distance; but that, in a hilly country, the greyhound would have an evident advantage. Wishes had been frequently indulged by different branches of the

sporting

sporting world, that some criterion could be adopted by which the certainty of superiority in speed could be fairly ascertained; when, after a variety of suggestions and propositions from one quarter to another without success, the following circumstance accidentally took place, affording some rays of information upon what was previously considered a matter of the greatest uncertainty:—

In the month of December, 1800, a match was to have been run over Doncaster course for one hundred guineas, but one of the horses having been drawn, a mare started alone, that by running the ground she might insure the wager; when having run about one mile of the four, she was accompanied by a greyhound bitch, who joined her from the side of the course, and emulatively entering into the competition, continued to race with the mare the other three miles, keeping nearly head and head, affording an excellent treat to the field, by the energetic exertions of each. At passing the distance-post five to four was betted in favour of the greyhound; when parallel with the stand, it was even betting, and any person might have taken his choice for five or ten; the mare, however, had the advantage by a head at the termination.

The invincible ardour and determined progress of the greyhound is not easily to be restrained by any intervening obstacles it is possible to surmount, or any difficulties that can, by the most indefatigable perseverance, be overcome; in confirmation of which a volume of facts might be adduced, but few will suffice. Early in life, the writer being upon a visit at Wortingwood farm, near Basingstoke, in Hampshire, and walking over the fields with an uncle, a hare was found sitting upon the bank of the fence; but, previous to her being turned out of her form, it was thought necessary to use some precaution that she might be prevented from too easily gaining a covert not far from the scene of action. That this might be the better effected, the writer was fixed in an open gap of the hedge (leading directly to the covert), with a strict injunction to stop the hare if she came that way. The hare, however, upon being put up, made immediately for the well-known gap, and passing between the legs of the writer, was instantaneously followed by the greyhound at his utmost speed; whose back coming into contact with the fork of the unfortunate guard, gave him an electrical elevation of four or five feet above the ground; which he had but just recovered from, when he had to encounter a severe flaggellation from an enraged relative for the loss of the hare.

Some

Some few years since, a greyhound named Rajah, the property of a Mr. Knowles, in the county of Hertford, having supported a very long course, and turned the hare, at least, a dozen times, killed her single-handed; but, was so completely exhausted, that he lay panting by her side, seemingly unable to rise. In this situation he was observed by two countrymen, and the master not coming up, or being in sight, they were determined to secure the hare; but, upon getting near with an intent to seize her, the greyhound suddenly sprung up, took the hare in his mouth, and set off the way he came, the fellows pursuing with sticks and stones; when meeting his master, who had followed the course, he laid the hare at his feet, and immediately turning round, flew at the men, but was then so weak in consequence of the successive exertions, that he again dropped as if dead; by bleeding and proper attention, he was luckily recovered, and long continued the faithful servant of an affectionate master.

In 1792, as a gamekeeper of Lord Egremont's was leading a brace of greyhounds in couples, a hare accidentally crossed the road in view; this temptation being too great to resist, they, in a joint effort, suddenly broke from their conductor, and gave chase, shackled as they were together, to the great admiration of those who were spectators of a scene so novel and entertaining. When they got up, and gave the hare the first turn, it was evidently much to her advantage, as the greyhounds were so embarrassed, it was with great difficulty they could change the direction; notwithstanding which temporary procrastination, they sustained no diminution of natural energy, but continued the course through and over various obstructions, till the object of pursuit fell a victim to their invincible perseverance near Pikeless Gate, after a course of between three and four miles. A similar circumstance took place in Scotland two or three years after, where a brace of greyhounds in couples killed a hare after a course of a mile.

In 1794, as a party of gentlemen were coursing at Finchingfield, in Essex, a hare was suddenly and unexpectedly started, when a brace of greyhounds coming in opposite directions, ran against each other with such velocity, that both were killed on the spot.

In 1797, a brace of greyhounds coursed a hare over the edge of a chalk-pit, at Offham, in Sussex; where, upon the company coming up, both hare and dogs were found dead at the bottom.

In February, 1798, a brace of greyhounds belonging to a gentleman of Carlisle, coursed a hare from the Swift, near that city, and killed her at Clemmell, a distance of seven miles; both the dogs were so exhausted, that, with every possible means of assistance, they were with difficulty recovered. The field consisted of nearly two hundred horsemen, and much money was sported upon the occasion; betting was even at starting, although the hare was the favourite against the greyhounds, she having been repeatedly coursed, but always beat her pursuers easy. She was, on the day of her death, given two hundred yards law, and, when killed, found to weigh eight pounds, eleven ounces, rendering erroneous the opinion that light hares are the best runners.

Some few years since, the greyhound of a clergyman who was delayed at Dover in waiting for a wind, was taken by the owner and a small party in search of a hare of some local notoriety who had escaped her previous pursuers of every description; when found, the greyhound soon proved himself so superior in speed, that she instantly ran for the cliff as the only chance of escaping; but, throwing himself at her some yards with the most incredible and determined ferocity, he caught her exactly upon the brink, and unfortunately went with her in his mouth to the bottom, where, as may be naturally concluded, they were literally dashed to atoms.

During the coursing season of 1800, a brace of greyhounds in Lincolnshire ran a hare a course of more than four miles when measured in a straight line; but, as there were many turns, and much oblique running, the real distance was supposed to be half as much more; this was run in less than twelve minutes, the hare falling dead before she was touched by the dogs. This must have proved a severe course for the horses, who frequently suffer more than in long chases with hounds. Mr. Daniel, in his first volume of "Rural Sports," recollects a hare being found close to the town of Bottisham, in Cambridgeshire, and which took away for the six-mile bottom, twenty-two horses started, but only one could make a gallop at the conclusion of the course, the hare (who was within fifty paces of the covert) was dead some few yards before the greyhounds, who were both bled to recover them.

The mild, affable, and serene aspect of the greyhound in its domestic state constitutes no drawback to its innate sagacity, or grateful attention to its protector; of which the unfortunate King Charles the First was so truly observant, that the remark he made during his troubles is upon record, and strictly just, as applicable

applicable to the instinctive fidelity of the animal, as well as its satirical effect upon the herd of sycophants who surrounded him. In the course of a familiar conversation, respecting the canine species in general, a doubt was started what particular kind of dog was entitled to pre-eminence, when it was universally admitted to rest between the spaniel and the greyhound; to which the monarch gave a polished finish in favour of the latter, by saying it possessed all the good-nature and solicitous affability of the spaniel without the fawning.

The natural simplicity, and peaceable demeanour of the greyhound, has sometimes induced a doubt, whether the instinctive sagacity of this particular race has been equal to some others of the species; circumstances, perhaps, have not often occurred by which a fair criterion could have been formed; one, however, within the personal knowledge and remembrance of the writer seems admirably calculated to throw an additional light upon that part of the subject. A Mr. Moore, then residing at Windsor, in Berkshire, had made application to his friends in the north of England to obtain a well-bred greyhound from thence, to oblige one of the keepers of Windsor Great Park for the purpose of killing fawns in the season. The solicitation was attended with success, and the greyhound was consigned by the waggon to London; arrived safe in Bishops-gate-street, and from thence was conveyed to the Bell-savage, upon Ludgate-hill, where it was delivered to the driver of the Windsor caravan, and reached the place of destination in safety. After a confinement of two days, with every attention of food and family tenderness, the dog was left at liberty about the house and premises, seemingly not only satisfied, but pleased with his situation and the caresses he received; in less than the next eight and forty hours he had suddenly taken his departure, a few days after which, Mr. Moore received a letter, with information that the dog had reached the place of his former residence in Yorkshire, before the return of the waggon by which he was originally sent to London.

Innumerable are the instances which might be adduced in demonstration of the sagacity, fidelity, and inviolable attachment of the greyhound, in an equal degree with such of the canine species as possess the means of displaying those qualifications in a manner more conspicuous and attracting; but, as enough has been already introduced to confirm that idea, and to gratify the moderate mind of investigation, it may not be considered inapplicable to bring this head

to a conclusion, by extracting from ancient records one of a different description, termed the ingratitude of Richard the Second's greyhound; translated from Foissart, by Sir John Boucher, Lord Berners:—

"And, as it was infourmed me, kynge Richarde had a grayhounde called Mithe, who always wayted upon the kynge, and would knowe no man els. For when so ever the kynge did ryde, he that kept the grayhounde dyd lette him lose, and he wolde streyght runne to the kynge and faune uppon hym, and leape with his fore fete uppon the kynge's shoulders. And as the kynge and the Erle of Derby talked togyder in the courte, the grayhounde, who was wonte to leape uppon the kynge, left the kynge and came to the Erle of Derby, Duke of Lancastre; and made to him the same friendly continuance and chere as he was wonte to do to the kynge. The duke, who knewe not the grayhounde, demanded of the kynge what the grayhounde, wolde do? "Cousin," quod the kynge, "it is a greate goode token to you, and an evyl signe to me."—"Sir, how knowe you that?" quod the duke.—"I knowe it well," quod the kynge. "The grayhounde meket you there this daye as Kynge of England, as ye shalbe, and I shalbe deposed; the grayhounde hath this knowledge naturally: therefore take hym to you, he wyll followe you and forsake mee." The duke understoode well those words, and cheryshed the grayhounde, who would never after followe kynge Richarde, but followed the Duke of Lancastre."

After a recital of the various excellencies of this particular kind of dog, it becomes necessary to introduce a few remarks upon the proper mode of breeding, and entering, such as are expected to excel in the sport to which alone they are become so fashionably appropriate. Those who are the most correct and emulous are exceedingly tenacious upon the purity of the blood, and will by no means stand the chance of any contaminated cross whatever; strict attention is paid to the strength, power, uniformity, and superiority of both sire and dam, as well as to the age considered the most consistent to breed from. Experience, with those who are the best judges, and who, by long attention and observation, are best qualified to decide, have enabled them to fix upon four, five, and six years old as the most proper and advantageous for propagation; and, if there should be any disproportion between the two, it is a general sporting opinion, that although the bitch may happen to be verging upon old age, the dog should be in his prime.

Greyhound

Greyhound whelps, during the first seven or eight months, are the most uncouth, awkward, and disproportioned that can possibly be conceived; at which period they begin to improve in form, and become gradationally divested of their original stupidity; to expedite this, neat, clean, healthy food will greatly contribute. It is frequently the practice to enter them at their game from ten to twelve months old; it is, however, not to be recommended till fourteen or fifteen months; unless at Leverets; for, if they unexpectedly encounter severe courses, and sustain injuries, ligamentary enlargements ensue, and the foundation of excellence is destroyed, without a remaining chance of attaining perfection. When two years old, the greyhound has reached his full growth, and the distinguishing traits of superiority are supposed to consist in a fine, soft, flexible skin, with thin silky hair, a great length of nose, contracting gradually from the eye to the nostril, a full, clear, and penetrating eye, small ears, erect head, long neck, broad breast, wide across the shoulders, round in the ribs, neither too long or too short in the back, a contracted belly and flank, a great depth from the hips to the hocks of the hind legs, a strong stern, round foot with open uniform clefts, fore legs straight, uniform, and considerably shorter than the hinder.

Greyhounds bred in countries where the ground was chiefly arable, were formerly supposed superior in speed and bottom to those produced in hilly countries; that opinion is, however, completely superseded, and the contrary proved to be the true state of the case. It is well known amongst real admirers of the sport, that the best bred dogs can acquire no celebrity against powerful opponents, unless they are continued, during the season, in a regular routine of training, in which physic, food, and exercise are equally concerned. Some attention is necessary to the state of the blood, as well as the state of the body, one being in a very material degree dependent upon the other; if the latter is permitted to become plethoric and overloaded, the former will become proportionally sizy and viscid, considerably affecting respiration, which should always be perfectly free from obstruction.

The good or bad condition of the greyhound depends almost entirely upon the manner, as well as the means, by which he is supported; those who keep them in high condition, and at all times ready for sport during the coursing season, are very particular in respect to their food, which it is evidently clear should be highly nutritious, without being difficult of digestion. Broths, and

gelatinous

gelatinous substances, incorporated with raspings, boiled biscuits, milk, oatmeal; or, bread made from the latter, and wheat flour equal parts, intermixed with a few beaten eggs and new ale, then formed into small loaves, and given with broth boiled from sheep's heads properly broken to pieces for the purpose, are articles well adapted (by their nutritious property) to keep the frame in a due degree of strength for bodily exertion, without over distending the intestinal canal, or tending to promote constipation there; so soon as which is at any time observed, a mild mercurial purging ball should be administered, to prevent an accumulation of indurated fœces, a circumstance exceedingly common with dogs of every description, particularly with those who subsist upon gross, foul, or bony food.

Greyhounds should, the least of all kinds of sporting dogs, be fed with horse-flesh, which is frequently so impregnated with morbidity, and replete with impurities, that cutaneous diseases and inveterate eruptions sometimes ensue, creating both vexation and disappointment. These, like every individual of the species, are subject to worms, the complete eradication of which can only be effected by a course (three doses) of mercurial physic; prescriptions for the preparation of purging balls, and other medical necessaries for the prevention and cure of disease will be found, in the course of the work, under one general head; with the proper proportions annexed, as applicable to the size and strength of each distinct kind of dog for which the medicine may be required.

IN addition to what has been introduced upon the present improved state of the breed of greyhounds, and the celebrity of the sport in which they are so fashionably engaged; it becomes directly applicable to the declared purport of the work to include a comparative view of

ANCIENT AND MODERN COURSING,

with which we are favoured by an amateur of the most popular authority.

> " I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips
> " Straining upon the start—The game's a-foot!"
>
> SHAKESPEARE, *Hen. Vth.*

The greyhound, under the antient name of gaze-hound, formed one of the earliest dogs of the chase, and from the very nature of his first appellation was intended only to run by sight. He was the original accompaniment of royalty in the sports of the field; and in lieu of fines and forfeitures due to the crown, King John was wont to accept of greyhounds; whether, when received as a tax, he was able to obtain those of a superior description, is not to be ascertained. But the dog of that day, which under kings was the concomitant of hawking, was long-haired, and somewhat resembling the one used by warreners; and in the oldest pictures now extant on the subject, the spaniel, and sometimes the pointer accompanied the sportsman in what was at that period denominated—coursing.

The greyhound then employed was probably larger than even the warren-mongrel, resembling more the shaggy wolf-dog of former times than any sporting dog of the present day. The Wolds of Yorkshire, which like the Wealds of Kent, are a corruption of the word "Wilds," appear, from the dates of parish books, to have been infested with wolves later than any other part of England. In the entries at Flixton, Stackston, and Folkton, in the east riding of Yorkshire, are still to be seen memoranda of payments made for the destruction of wolves at a certain rate per head. They used to breed in the cars below amongst the rushes, furze, and bogs, and in the night time come up from their dens, and unless the sheep had been previously driven into the town, or the shepherds indefatigably vigilant, great numbers of them were destroyed; it being observed of all wild animals, that when they have opportunity to depredate,

date, they prefer the blood to the flesh of the victim, and of course commit much unnecessary carnage.

From the wolfs having so long remained in the parts just mentioned, it is not more than fifty years since many of the long-haired, curl-tailed greyhounds were to be traced, bred originally from the wolf-dog; and some of these, for a short distance, could run with surprising velocity. That a dog of this description should sufficiently gratify the coursing sentiment of that day, is by no means surprising; the uncultivated face of the country, covered with brakes, bushes, wood, and infinite obstacles, may readily account for it. In running their game, they had to surmount these impediments, and to dart through thorn hedges (in that unimproved state) which covered eighteen or twenty feet in width, and frequently to kill their object of pursuit in the middle of them.

These dogs were accustomed to lie unhoused upon the cold ground, and to endure all hardships of indifferent food, and more indifferent usage; but when the owner (or protector) lived in the open air, unmindful of the elements, and regardless of the storm, it can create no surprise that the faithful dog should fare no better than his master. This most likely was the earliest stage of the gaze or greyhound: wild in his aspect, erect in his ears, and shaggy in his coat; but even in that unimproved state they had many good points; as straight firm legs; round, hard, fox-hound feet; were incredibly quick at catching view, and being instantaneously upon their legs, which modern sportsmen term "firing quickly."

In uniform progress with time, improvement proceeded also; during "the merry days of good Queen Bess," when maids of honour could breakfast upon beef, and ride a-gallop for a day together, the sports of the field were objects of due attention. It was then her majesty, divested of regal dignity, would condescend to see a brace or two of deer pulled down by greyhounds after dinner; and it was then that coursing began to assume a more regulated form, and to acquire a more universal degree of emulative estimation.

Instead of the wild man with his wilder dogs, taking his solitary quest for game; the hourly enlightened sportsman of that day, began to form themselves into meetings of more friendly congeniality, and rules were adopted by which a general confidence and mutual intercourse might be maintained. The Duke

of

of Norfolk, who was the leading sportsman of that time, was powerfully solicited, and ultimately prevailed upon, to draw up a proper code of laws, which (are already inserted, and) constitute the coursing magna charta of the present day.

These rules, though established by a duke, and regulated by a queen, rendered the coursing of that period but of a very sterile description. Pointers were used for the purpose of finding the game, and when any of these made a point, the greyhounds were uncoupled as a necessary prelude to the sport which was to ensue. The greyhounds, even at this time, deviated but little from the kind already described; rough and heavy, with strength enough to overcome any difficulty it might be necessary to break through. To found the æra of improved coursing, and for introducing greyhounds of superior form, and higher blood, was reserved for the late princely owner of Houghton. If the agricultural meetings in the most distant counties feel themselves gratefully justified in drinking, as their first toast, "The Memory of Mr. Bakewell," no true and consistent coursing meeting can ever omit to give, with equal enthusiasm, "The Memory of the Earl of Orford."

It is the distinguishing trait of genius to be enthusiastically bold, and daringly courageous. Nothing in art or science; nothing in mental, or even in manual labour, was ever achieved of superior excellence, without that ardent zeal, that impetuous sense of eager avidity, which to the cold, inanimate, and unimpassioned, bears the appearance, and sometimes the unqualified accusation of insanity. When a monarch of this country once received the news of a most heroic action maintained against one of his own fleets, and seemed considerably chagrined at the result; the then Lord of the Admiralty endeavoured to qualify and soften down the matter, by assuring the king that "the commander of the enemy's fleet was mad."——"Mad! would he were mad enough to bite one of my admirals."

Lord Orford had absolutely a phrenetic furor of this kind, in any thing he found himself disposed to undertake; it was a predominant trait in his character never to do any thing by halves, and coursing was his most prevalent passion beyond every other pleasurable consideration. In consequence of his most extensive property, and his extra-influence as lord lieutenant of the county, he not only interested numbers of opulent neighbours in the diversion, but, from the

extent of his connections, could command such an immensity of private quarters for his young greyhounds, and of making such occasional selections from which, that few, if any, beside himself could possess.

There were times when he was known to have fifty brace of greyhounds; and, as it was a fixed rule never to part from a single whelp till he had a fair and substantial trial of his speed, he had evident chances (beyond almost any other individual) of having, amongst so great a number, a collection of very superior dogs: but, so intent was he upon this peculiar object of attainment, that he went still farther in every possible direction to obtain perfection, and introduced every experimental cross from the English lurcher to the Italian greyhound. He had strongly indulged an idea of a successful cross with the bull dog, which he could never be divested of, and after having persevered (in opposition to every opinion) most patiently for seven removes, he found himself in possession of the best greyhounds ever yet known; giving the small ear, the rat tail, and the skin almost without hair, together with that innate courage which the high-bred greyhound should possess, retaining which instinctively he would rather die than relinquish the chace.

One defect only this cross is admitted to have, which the poacher would rather know to be a truth, than the fair sportsman would come willingly forward to demonstate. To the former it is a fact pretty well known, that no dog has the sense of smelling in a more exquisite degree than the bull dog; and, as they run mute, they, under certain crosses, best answer the midnight purposes of the poacher in driving hares to the wire or net. Greyhounds bred from this cross, have therefore some tendency to run by the nose, which, if not immediately checked by the master, they will continue for miles, and become very destructive to the game in the neighbourhood where they are kept, if not under confinement or restraint.

Having necessarily adverted to the father of modern coursing, some distinguishing traits of his character (replete with anecdote) can prove no deviation from the descriptive variety previously promised in the course of the work. No man ever sacrificed so much time, or so much property to practical or speculative sporting as the late Earl of Orford; whose eccentricities are too firmly indented upon "the tablet of memory" ever to be obliterated from the diversified rays of retrospection. Incessantly engaged in the pursuit of sport and new inventions,

ventions, he introduced more whimsicalities, more experimental genius, and enthusiastic zeal, than any man ever did before him, or most probably any other man may ever attempt to do again.

Amongst his experiments of fancy was a determination to drive four red deer (stags) in a phaeton instead of horses, and these he had reduced to perfect discipline for his excursions and short journies upon the road; but unfortunately, as he was one day driving at Newmarket, their ears were accidentally saluted with the cry of a pack of hounds, who soon after crossing the road in the rear, immediately caught scent of the "four in hand," and commenced a new kind of chace with "breast high" alacrity. The novelty of this scene was rich beyond description; in vain did his lordship exert all his charioteering skill—in vain did his well-trained grooms energetically endeavour to ride before them; reins, trammels, and the weight of the carriage were of no effect; off they went with the celerity of a whirlwind, and this modern phaeton, in the midst of his electrical vibrations of fear, bid fair to experience the fate of his namesake. Luckily, however, his lordship had been accustomed to drive this Hudibrastic set of "fiery-eyed" steeds to the Ram Inn, at Newmarket, which was most happily at hand, and to this his lordship's fervent prayers and ejaculations had been ardently directed; into the yard they suddenly bounded to the dismay of ostlers and stable-boys, who seemed to have lost every faculty upon the occasion. Here they were luckily overpowered, and the stags, the phaeton, and his lordship were all instantaneously huddled together in a large barn, just as the hounds appeared in full cry at the gate.

This singular circumstance, although most luckily attended with no accident, effectually cured his lordship's passion of deer-driving; but his invincible zeal for coursing, and his undiminished rage for its improvement, remained with him to the last. No day was too long, or any weather too severe for him; those who have ever seen him, can never forget the extreme, laughable, singularity of his appearance. Mounted on a stump of a pye-balled poney (as uniformly broad as he was long), in a full suit of black, without either great-coat or gloves; his hands and face crimsoned with cold, and in a fierce cocked hat facing every wind that blew; and while his game-keepers were shrinking from the sand-gathering blasts of Norfolk, on he rode, like old Lear, regardless of the elements,

"Blow, wind, and crack your cheeks! rage! blow
"You cataracts, and hurricanes, spout
"Till you have drench'd our steeples, drown'd the cocks!"

for innately warm with the predominance of his passion for sport, he set at defiance storms of every description.

At a particular period of his life, when

"The springs of nature rose above their level,"

there was a necessity for some degree of medical coercion to bring them again within the bounds of prudent regulation. During this scene of unavoidable suspension from his favourite pursuits, the extreme attention shewn to him, by a person who regulated his domestic concerns, so much influenced his nicer sensations, that he dedicated to her the most tender and grateful affection during her life. The circumstance of her death (though by no means young or handsome) so much affected his lordship, that the nerves before unstrung, again gave way, and the former malady returned with increasing violence. He was at this time confined to his chamber, with an attendant necessary to the disordered state of his mind; but, with all that latent artifice for which objects of this description are so remarkable, he contrived, by some plausible pretext, to get his keeper out of the room, instantly jumped out of the window, ran to the stables, and saddled his pye-balled poney, at the very time he well knew the grooms and stable-attendants were all engaged.

On that day his favourite bitch, old Czarina, was to run a match of much magnitude; the game-keepers had already taken her to the field, where a large party were assembled equally lamenting the absence of his lordship, and the cause by which his presence was prevented. When at the very moment of mutual regret and condolance, who should appear at full speed, on the pye-balled poney, but Lord Orford himself.

His presence all bosoms appeared to dismay,
His friends stood in silence and fear;

but none had power to restrain him, all attempts and entreaties were in vain; the match he was determined to see; and no persuasions whatever could in-

 fluence

fluence him to the contrary. Finding no endeavours could divert him from the ecstatic expectation he had formed, the greyhounds were started, and Czarina won; during the course no human power, or exertion could prevent him from riding after the dogs, more particularly as his favourite bitch displayed her superiority in every stroke: when in the moment of the highest exultation and the eagerness of his triumph, unfortunately falling from his poney, and pitching upon his head (whether occasioned by apoplexy, or such contusion upon the skull as instantly affected the brain), he almost immediately expired, to the inexpressible grief of those who surrounded him at the last moment of his life; individually convinced, that coursing was the predominant idea,

"Still liv'd the ruling passion strong in death."

A man of more simple manners, more liberal constructions, or of a more courteous nature, never was known to constitute a part of benevolent and philanthropic society. All the urbanities of life were his, and he seemed by nature formed to attract the most grateful attention; generally acquainted as he was from his rank, as well as from his sporting pursuits, with every condition of persons from the prince to the peasant, his conversation was happily suited to each, and equally winning with them all.

The Prince of Wales, when occasionally visiting his lordship on a shooting party, saw at no other place such a profusion of game of every description—such a display of attendant game-keepers—such a noble, though plain hospitality, as at Houghton; and a park so curiously and infinitely stocked with every original in beast and fowl of almost every country from the African bull to the pelican of the wilderness. When an actor, a poet, or an hero dies, if his reputation be sufficient for the posthumous exulation, we must look in Westminster Abbey; if a great sportsman retires from the busy fashionable scene of life, his intrinsic worth can only be ascertained by a walk to Tattersal's.

In a short space of time after Lord Orford's decease, his greyhounds (with various other sporting appurtenances) came under the hammer of the auctioneer. Colonel Thornton of Yorkshire, who had passed much of his early life with Lord Orford, and had been an active associate with him in his hawking establishment, was the purchaser of Czarina, Jupiter, and some of his best dogs, giving from thirty to fifty guineas each. It was by this circumstance the select

 blood

blood of the Norfolk dogs was transferred to Yorkshire; and thence a fair trial was obtained how the fleetest greyhounds that had ever been seen on the sands of Norfolk could run over the Wolds of Yorkshire.

Old Jupiter, when produced by Colonel Thornton in that country, presented to the eye of either the sportsman or the painter, as gallant and true a picture of the perfect greyhound as ever was submitted to judicious inspection. He was a dog of great size, with a very long and taper head, deep in the chest, strong in the loins, with a skin exceedingly soft and pliable, ears small, and a tail as fine as whip-cord. From this uniformity of make and shape, a cross was much sought after by members of the different coursing meetings in the northern districts, and it was universally admitted that the breed in Yorkshire was considerably improved by the Norfolk acquisition.

Notwithstanding these dogs were amongst the best Lord Orford had ever bred from all his experimental crosses, and were the boast of the greatest coursers the south of England ever knew; yet when they came to be started against the hares of the High Wolds, they did not altogether support the character they had previously obtained. This was more particularly demonstrated when the hares turned short on the hill sides, where the greyhounds, unable to stop themselves, frequently rolled like barrels from the top to the bottom, while the hare went away at her leisure, and heard no more of them; it was, however, unanimously agreed by all the sportsmen present, that they ran with a great deal of energetic exertion, and always at the hare; that though beaten, they did not give it in, or exhibit any symptoms of lurching, or waiting to kill.

In the low flat countries below the Wolds they were more successful; such gentlemen, therefore, as had been witnesses of the Norfolk, as well as the Berkshire coursing, and saw how the best dogs of the South were beaten by the Wold hares, were led to observe, and afterwards to acknowledge, the superiority of the Wold coursing, and the strength of the hares there. By those who have never seen it, this has been much doubted; the good sportsmen of the South, each partial to his own country (from a strong small enclosure to an open marsh pasture), deny this totally, and many invitations have passed from them to the sporting gentlemen of Yorkshire, to a have a midway meeting of greyhounds from the respective countries.

To

To have capital coursing, a good dog is only one part of the business; it is not only necessary to have a good hare also, but a country where nothing but speed and power to continue it can save her. Over the high wolds of Stackston, Flixton, and Sherborne, in Yorkshire, where hares are frequently found three or four miles from any covert or enclosure whatever; the ground the finest that can possibly be conceived, consisting chiefly of sheep-walk, including every diversity of hill, plain, and valley by which the speed and strength of a dog can be fairly brought to the test; it will not require many words to convince the real sportsman, that such courses have been seen there, as no other part of the kingdom in its present enclosed state can possibly offer, and these necessarily require a dog to be in that high training, for which in coursing of much less severity there cannot be equal occasion. But the day is fast approaching when coursing of such description will no more be seen; in a very few years these wolds will be surrounded, and variously intersected with fences, and thus equalized with other countries, the husbandman (who will then have his day of triumph over the sportsman) may justly and exultingly exclaim,

Seges est, ubi Troja fuit!

The man who in any way challenges the whole world should recollect—the world is a wide place. Lord Orford once tried the experiment, and the challenge thus confidently made, was as confidently taken up by the present Duke of Queensbury (then Lord March), who had not a greyhound belonging to him in the world. Money will do much; with indefatigable exertion it will do more; and it is a circumstance well known to many of the sporting world, that upon particular occasions, some of the best pointers ever seen have emerged from a cellar from the metropolis, who it might be imagined had never seen a bird in the field. The duke in this instance applied to that well-known character old Mr. Elwes, who recommended him to another elderly sportsman of Berkshire (Captain Hatt), a courser of no small celebrity, who produced a greyhound, that in a common country, beat Lord Orford's imaginary phenomenon.

This same kind of challenge was some few years since given by Snowball, the property of Major Topham, of the Wold Cottage, Yorkshire; and was the only challenge of similar import, that has not been accepted; but it is requisite, at the same time, to remark, that the match was restricted to be run only in such place where a fair and decisive trial could be obtained. Those who have seen great

great matches decided by short courses, and bad hares (where chance frequently intervenes), must know that such trials are uncertain and deceptive, and that the real superiority of either dog may still remain unknown when the match is over. Perhaps, even in the best country, should the contest be for a large sum, and between two greyhounds of equal celebrity, the most equitable mode of ascertaining the merit of each, would be to run three courses, and adjudge the prize to the winner of the main of the three; it being very unlikely, that in three courses ran in an open country, the superiority of one greyhound over the other should not be evidently perceived.

The excellence of Snowball, whose breed was Yorkshire on the side of the dam, and Norfolk on that of the sire, was acknowledged by the great number who had seen him run; and, perhaps, taken "for all in all," he was the best greyhound that ever ran in England. All countries were nearly alike to him, though bred where fences seldom occur; yet, when taken into the strongest enclosures, he topped hedges of any height, and in that respect equalled, if not surpassed, every dog in his own country. They who did not seem to think his speed so superior, all allowed, that for wind, and for powers in running up long hills without being distressed, they had never seen his equal.

On a public coursing day given to the township of Flixton, the continuance of his speed was once reduced to a certainty by the known distance, as well as the difficulty of the ground. From the bottom of Flixton Brow, where the village stands, to the top of the hill where the wold begins is a measured mile, and very steep in ascent the whole of the way. A hare was found midway, and there was started with Snowball a sister of his given to the Rev. Mr. Minithorpe, and a young dog about twelve months old of another breed. The hare came immediately up the hill, and after repeated turns upon the wold, took down the hill again; but finding that in the sandy bottom she was less a match for the dogs, she returned, and in the middle of the hill the whelp gave in, Snowball and his sister being left with the hare; reaching the wold a second time, she was turned at least fifty times, where forcibly feeling the certainty of approaching death, she again went down the hill, in descending which the bitch dropped, and by immediate bleeding was recovered; Snowball afterwards ran the hare into the village, where he killed her.

The length of this course, by the ascertained distance, was full four miles, without adverting to the turns, which must have much encreased it; this, with a hill a mile high, twice ascended, are most indubitable proofs of continuance which few dogs could have given, and which few but Flixton hares could have required. The people of Flixton talk of it to this day, and, accustomed as they are to courses of the richest description in the annals of sporting, they reckon this amongst the most famous they have seen.

Snowball, Major, his brother, and Sylvia, were perhaps the three best and most perfect greyhounds ever produced at one litter. They never were beaten.

The shape, make, systematic uniformity, and all the characteristics of high blood were distinguishable in the three; the colour of Major and Sylvia were singularly brindled, that of Snowball a jet black, and when in good running condition was as fine as black satin. Snowball won ten large pieces of silver plate, and upwards of forty matches, having accepted every challenge, from whatever dogs of different countries were brought against him. His descendants have been equally successful: Venus, a brindled bitch; Blacksmith, who died from extreme exertion in running up a steep hill; and young Snowball have beat every dog that was ever brought against them.

For the last three years Snowball has covered at three guineas, and the farmers in that, and the neighbouring districts, have sold crosses from his breed at ten and fifteen guineas each. Major, his brother (whose portrait and history are annexed), has displayed his powers before the gentlemen of the south as already described; this, as a public exhibition of the dog to a few sporting amateurs, might be bearable, but could he have found a tongue, when he beheld himself brought to run a hare turned out of a box, in the month of March, upon Epsom Downs, amidst whiskies, buggies, and gingerbread carts, well might he have exclaimed,

"To this complexion am I come at last!"

A man who had been accustomed to fish for salmon in the waters of Lough-Lomond, could not be more conscious of his mortification, if degradingly stuck down with a stick and crooked pin to fish for tittle-baits in——Paddington-canal.

Major Osbalddeston (a name well known to the sportsmen of the north) has been long celebrated for greyhounds of the real Yorkshire breed; his famous dog Snail (lucus a non lucendo) was for some years the leading dog at Malton coursing meeting, where the determination is invariably "for the best of the whole course."

Mr. Heblethwayte, of Burlington, has been equally remarkable for the excellence of his dogs, which are of the same country also, he never having deviated from the original stock into any cross whatever.

Mr. Hodgson, of Stamford Bridge, in the East Riding, produced, some few years since, a breed which, for a time, as much surprised the sportsmen of Yorkshire as any greyhounds they had ever seen. These consisted of three bitches, called "the Dents," from a name which had long been in the family. Their skins were perfectly smooth, their ears small, and their heads uncommonly fine; but, from their tails being short and curled, their appearance was not unlike a very light, smart rabbit-dog. They united in themselves two very opposite qualities; they ran with immense fire and speed, and yet turned so completely with the hare, they appeared always upon their game, rendering their style of killing uncommonly great. They were sold for very large sums; one of them is the property of Sir Francis Boynton, bart. of Burton Agnes; another of Richard Darley, Esq. of Aldby Park; and the third of Major Topham, of the Wold Cottage; the last of which won the large prize-cup at Malton about four years since.

In the year 1496 a very curious book of sports was published by Wynken de Worde, a writer of that time, who had very good ideas on the subject; on the choice of a greyhound he has precisely these words:—

Headed

Headed lyke a snake,
Neckyed lyke a drake,
Fottyed lyke a catte,
Taylled lyke a ratte,
Syded lyke a teme,
And chyned lyke a beme.

Except in the article of the stern, the Dents exactly answered this description; their legs and feet were remarkably fine, but they stood higher than the Derbyshire dogs, whose legs are shorter but stronger, and therefore still better calculated for running up the stony hills of their own country. Those bred by Mr. Swinfen and Mr. Mundy have been highly distinguished; old Paramount, the property of the former, was considered the best dog ever known in that part of England; and a bitch of Mr. Mundy's breed, in a very severe course of February last, beat Mr. Darley's Dent: in point of speed, the Dent bitch was superior, but wanted bottom to continue the course.

The gentlemen of Norfolk, since the days of the Earl of Orford, have been so devoted to coursing, and the sport so much patronized by the ladies also, that a correct enumeration of their dogs would be impossible; but they continue in the blood originally introduced by Lord Orford. Nature, however, does not seem to have favoured their efforts to the full extent of the "consummation so devoutly to be wished," having denied a country equal to their deserts and the energy of their endeavours. Flat sands do not give the hare an equal chance with the dog, and there is wanting a diversity of ground for any severe trial; their meetings, however, are very shewy, and they make up in parade what they want in reality.

Newmarket has occasionally shewn some well tried courses, and a meeting has been recently revived there of much respectability. Every jockey in that and the neighbouring district fancies he has a capital galloper of a greyhound, and many of these have been sold for large sums. The late Doctor Frampton was the "tutelary genius" of the old school of coursing there; and amongst those who frequently dashed down from town for the sake of an occasional course. Mr. Clarke, of Vauxhall, had a famous dog called Schoolboy, already mentioned as of great speed, strength, and size; those of Dr. Frampton were of an opposite description, light and small. At the Newmarket meeting, as well as at many others, Mr. Corsellis (who is a very old courser) and Mr. B. Dud-

 ley

ley have both started very good dogs. The latter has an old dog (whose performances are already recited) called "the Miller," the sire of his present stock, that for running in the large deep pastures, at Bradwell Marshes, has been very famous, and beat all his opponents. He was a dog of great size, and proportional power; remarkable for leaping, with ease and activity, the higher gates which form the entrances into these pastures.

Dogs of this large kind have not in general been found able to run long upon wind. What is considered necessary to the horse, is thought to be necessary to the dog likewise; many half-bred horses have, for a short distance, exhibited instances of wonderful speed; but a thorough bred horse only can continue it for miles in succession. This forms the essential difference betwixt greyhounds who have to run in an enclosed, and those who have to run in an open country.

Next to the wolds of Yorkshire, the downs and extensive plains of Wiltshire have afforded the best trials of greyhounds, as hares are frequently found three or four miles from a covert; and who must of necessity prove good runners, well knowing what formidable opponents they have the chance to encounter. In addition to this, on hard, dry, spare soils, the hare is never unsound; and it may be held as nearly an invariable rule, that where the land is bad, the hare will be good.

The family of the Chaplins, in Lincolnshire, have been always famous for good greyhounds, having the encouragement of a good country. The father of the present Mr. Chaplin maintained some spirited contests with the late Lord Orford, but was in general beaten by his lordship, upon a well-founded prevalent opinion, that it was in consequence of taking his dogs out of a good country into a bad one.

The gentlemen who, in different parts of Yorkshire, have been most distinguished for their greyhounds at the Malton Coursing Meetings are—

Sir Rowland Wynn, Bart. of Nostal Park. Stephen Croft, Esq. Stillington. Hall Plumer, Esq. Bilton Park.	West Riding.

The

The latter has pursued the plan of endeavouring to obtain good dogs, without predilection for any particular breed, and few men have been more successful. His famous dog Speed, who he considered (from the repeated trials he had procured) the fleetest dog in England, was the last greyhound against whom Snowball started and beat. This match terminated the coursing career of Snowball's popularity; as the owner, in consideration of his age, then declared he should never run another public match. Speed was the dog before-mentioned, to have died soon after the match.

As coursing is now almost universally reduced to a system of matching only, there is not often an instance of a farmer having a dog worthy the notice of a gentleman for that purpose. Their ideas go to killing only, and Buonaparté, in his most furious moments, cannot be more sanguinary in his favourite pursuits than they in theirs. As a proof what the opinion is (and which is common to them all) of the qualities requisite to form a capital dog, the following anecdote told me by a very respectable clergyman may suffice:—

A farmer having heard much of the clergyman's greyhounds came to tell him, "that if he had a mind to buy the best dog in England, he had him." Away went the parson and the peasant, the former neatly booted and spurred, upon a bit of blood; the latter with a thick stick, mounted upon a cart-mare. A hare was soon found, and the parson and his bitch, after a hard run, were coming in only second best, not having observed the farmer's dog render any assistance he concluded him completely thrown out, and was rejoicing accordingly: when, as they approached a thick furze covert, the hare gallantly beating the bitch, he much to his surprise saw the farmer's greyhound sitting quietly upon his hind quarters waiting for the hare, who, when she came near enough, he suddenly started up and presently killed. The farmer and the cart-mare, who had taken a short cut, came in at the death, uproariously exclaiming, with a broad grin of triumph, "there parson, I told you what a devil of a dog he was. Let him alone for goodness." "That I certainly shall," replied the clergyman, and rode home without farther ceremony.

The good greyhounds of farmers are all of the same cast; and being designed for the cupboard only, might, with equal consistency, be called—turnspits. Mr. Swinfen's method of training greyhounds has not only been confidently asserted

serted, and by no means controverted, that he would take two dogs nearly equal, and giving any opponent the best, would in three weeks beat him with the worst. His mode was not to let them run at a hare, but to give them a brisk gallop twice a day with his hunters; thus affording them the advantage of gradually encreasing respiration without extra straining, or incurring probability of lameness. Some small information may therefore be expected upon the express article of

TRAINING GREYHOUNDS

previous to a conclusion of this part of the work.

The training gentlemen of Newmarket, who are universally admitted to know full as much as they ought to do, make no scruple of giving an opinion that training a greyhound may be brought to as great a certainty as training a horse. The long experienced writer is of a different opinion, feeling himself justified, by ten years observation, in conceiving those speculative gentlemen are too rapid and uncertain in their declarations.

For a casual course in a common enclosed country, he is avowedly of opinion, not to train is the best; having seen repeated instances of dogs taken out of the streets, and who were almost mad at the sight of an hare, having ran with more fire and desperation; more intoxication (if the term is allowable) for a short distance, than dogs who had been regularly trained to long courses, and when a hare was found, expected they had a great deal of business to get through. The well-broke, steady old hunter affords ample confirmation of this idea; he avails himself of his experience, and is become too sagacious and observant to waste his strength in unnecessary capering, uncertain what may prove the length of the chase.

Presuming, therefore, that in a common sort of country, no training is the best plan; the only question then is, what is the best method in a country which requires a dog to be in complete wind, and to run a course of four or five miles at the extremity of his speed the whole way? To this kind of country the writer has been accustomed, and having had some few dogs die in the field, where the hearts have been ruptured from the violence of exertion; he has been naturally

naturally induced to make some rational experiments on what kind of training was the best; and what means might prove most conducive to the success of the exertions required.

In respect to the article of feeding, he is induced to believe, after the various trials made by sporting friends on the subject, it is by no means as yet ascertained, whether eggs, bread, or meat be the best food for a greyhound, when required upon a particular occasion to be in the best possible condition; knowing there are different members of the various clubs who are even medically nice on the subject of training, and who critically adhere to the modes of feeding before-mentioned. Nor is he certain whether casual and chance food from the master's table be not as good a plan as many of those deliberately adopted; in respect to his own they are fed principally upon dry, boiled meat, which he finds answer every expectation. In regard to the subject of exercise, he is perfectly convinced that merely giving the greyhound, as his only training, a run after a horse who is taking his watering gallop, would by no means qualify him to run a course over the high wolds, where the best bred horse at his rate has not been able to keep pace throughout with the dogs.

The system he should recommend would be concisely as follows: To begin with a greyhound that is much above himself, or, in other words, fatter than he ought to be, with two doses of physic, allowing an interval of six days; bleeding once midway between the operation of the dose and the administration of the other. After this his food should be dry boiled meat, with occasionally a change to fine oatmeal, rendered of a proper consistence with boiled milk. He should be permitted to run two or three courses a week, and every day to have a regular dressing over his body with a soft pliable hair-cloth, and this to be continued until the flesh over his loins be as hard and elastic as possible.

Should the feet get cut, or become lacerated in running, they may be washed with a weak solution of alum in water. Whenever a dog has long courses to encounter, he should be rather thin in respect to flesh; no dog can bear being pressed when too fat and overloaded.

On the morning of running a cordial ball may be given, particularly if any seeming lassitude appears denoting him below par; but, with all the care and

attention

attention it has been possible to bestow, the writer is free to confess, that he has been disappointed in many greyhounds not running up to their mark; although he has seen the very same dogs, with an inferior degree of care, run better than when in the highest training possible, and in perfect health. But, as the severe coursing of open countries, from the improvements of agriculture, is diminishing daily, very high degree of training will cease to be necessary.

The Flixton meeting "is now no more;" a misunderstanding about the ground, in which, probably, no party was to blame (but all regret), created some local impediments to a meeting which, from the extent and diversity of the ground, as well as the peculiar excellence of the hares, appeared out of all Britain the very spot most singularly appropriated to the enjoyment of this sport in its richest extent. The enclosure of Flixton and the adjoining townships has now completed what accident began; and, though the coursing may still exceed that of other countries, yet no longer can be seen there, those famous runs of four and five miles each, over turf uninterrupted.

On these Wolds the celebrated Major will most probably never run again; and, from the advanced age of Snowball, his former excellence in running cannot be looked for. The whimsical poem of "Beth Gelert" once sanctified the grave of the greyhound; in conformity with which precedent, the writer thinks proper to close this humble delineation of coursing with what is, at some future day, intended to be engraved over

THE TOMB OF SNOWBALL,

BY HIS MASTER.

He, who out-bounded time and space,
The fleetest of the greyhound race,
Lies here!—At length subdued by death,
His speed now stopp'd, and out of breath.

Ah! gallant Snowball! what remains
Up Fordon's banks, o'er Flixton's plains
Of all thy strength—thy sinewy force,
Which rather flew, than ran the course?
Ah! what remains? Save that thy breed
May to their father's fame succeed;
And when the prize appears in view
May prove that they are Snowballs too.

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The landlord and tenant in the before-mentioned neghbourhood may mutually congratulate each other, and will, probably, have reason to rejoice at the change in the face of the country; but the contemplative sportsman will heave a sigh of retrospection over the sports he has seen, and which now he can never expect to see again. It was on these plains the blood of Snowball (now spreading fast over the kingdom) first distinguished itself; and, as neither time or trials have produced any thing equal, it is not likely we may look with confidence to an expectation of any thing superior.

We shall here conclude our Observations on this head, by offering our warmest acknowledgments to Colonel THORNTON for his readiness in permitting our artist to execute a painting of the celebrated MAJOR (whose properties are too well known to require any eulogium in this place); nor are we less indebted to a *Popular Sportsman* of the present day for his valuable contribution on ANCIENT AND MODERN COURSING.

NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

THE dog passing under this denomination, is so universally known in every part of the kingdom, and is so accurately delineated, by the united efforts of the artists, in the representation annexed, that a minute description of its size, shape, make and form, might be considered more a matter of unnecessary obtrusion, than of literary entertainment. The greater number of naturalists who have written professedly upon these, or similar subjects, have made no mention at all of a dog known by this appellation; affording a well-founded reason to presume, it was a distinct part of the species not known amongst us, till imported from that country whose name it continues to bear. A retrospective survey of their remarks naturally leads the attentive enquirer to believe, that the Newfoundland, the Siberian, the Lapland, and the Iceland dogs, bear great affinity to each other in the length of their muzzles, the shaggyness of their hair, and the bushy curvilinear elevation of their tails; and, that the only material deviation from the base of the stock, is the variation in size, and this (according to the suggestions of Buffon) may have been occasioned by the effect of climate, in proportion to the degree of latitude in which each particular country is situate.

The Newfoundland dog, in a state of purity, uncontaminated by the blood of any inferior race, is one of the most majestic and awefully attracting of all the canine variety; although, at first sight, he appears terrific, from the seeming immensity of his magnitude, the placid serenity of his countenance as instantly dispels the agitating vibrations of fear, by fondly affording early proof, that ferocity is not the predominant or distinguishing trait of his disposition. With those to whom he is barely known (but particularly where he is attached or familiarized), every look seems not more impressively intended to entreat attention, than to solicit an early exchange of mutual services. Naturally disposed to

to action, he is always eager to be employed; and, is never more delighted than when such little offices are assigned him as are not beyond his power or ability to execute. Emulative by nature, no one passion lays sluggishly dormant, but all are equally alive to the emergency of the occasion; he seems, by an inexplicable impulse, to be the friend of every individual, without displaying the least tendency to animosity with any part of the creation. Offence he is scarcely ever known to offer; but insult he never receives with impunity.

Docile beyond conception, and affectionate beyond description, the Newfoundland dog is easily taught almost every thing within the power of the human mind to inculcate, of which his own strength and frame are capable. Equally sagacious as energetic, he patiently perseveres in whatever he undertakes, and never relinquishes the attempt so long as there remains the most distant hope, or possibility of success. Adapted by his powers, and the pliability of his temper to the use of man, he never shrinks from whatever task may be enjoined, but undertakes it with an ardour proportioned to the difficulty of the execution. Exultingly ostentatious in the province of being employed, he forcibly displays his pride in being permitted to carry in his mouth (for miles) the basket, bundle, or stick of his employer; to take from him either of which, would be found a service of no small danger.

The sagacity of this animal is so palpably blended with a peculiarly attentive attachment to the human species, and such an instantaneous sense of impending danger, that the inactive mind, lulled to an apathy, becomes immediately roused to action in the contemplation. Previous to a confirmation of which, it may be strictly consistent to observe, that being habitually inclined to industrious employment, they are equally serviceable to the settlers of the coasts from whence they are brought, as are to us the galloways and ponies of our own country. There they are early initiated in, and soon inured to the trammels of harness and diurnal labour; three, four, or five, are affixed to the sledge, or vehicle containing their destined load of wood, or other materials, of some hundreds weight, which they steadily draw for miles with ease; and, when once instructed in, and completely reconciled to their road, stand in no need of a driver; but, having delivered the lading with which they are entrusted, return to the residence of the owner, where they, of course, receive the alimentary reward of their labour.

To come a little nearer home, for the confirmation of what may (by the incredulous) be considered effusions of fancy, it is not seven years since Mr. Haldane, a gentleman then living within a mile of Stirling, in North Britain, had two Newfoundland dogs so well and truly trained, that every morning, being harnessed and properly affixed to a small vehicle constructed for the purpose, upon the word being given, they immediately set off from his house to the baker's, at Stirling, he having a duplicate key to the box in the cart, deposited the hot rolls, and dispatched the dogs; who then, as they had been previously taught, called at the post-office in their way home, and, in a similar way, brought with them what letters there happened to be for any branch of the family.

Mr. Bewick, in his history of quadrupeds, has given a well-authenticated and recent instance of sagacity in the following words:—"During a severe storm in the winter of 1789, a ship, belonging to Newcastle, was lost near Yarmouth; and a Newfoundland-dog alone escaped to shore, bringing in his mouth the pocket-book of the captain. He landed amidst a number of people, several of whom in vain endeavoured to take it from him. The sagacious animal, as if sensible of the importance of the charge (which, in all probability, was delivered to him by his perishing master), at length leapt fawningly against the breast of a man, who had attracted his notice among the crowd, and delivered the book to him. The dog immediately returned to the place where he had landed, and continued to watch, with great attention, for every thing that came from the wreck, seizing them, and endeavouring to bring them to land.

Some few years since a Mrs. Kaye, then residing at Southley House, opposite Windsor-Park Wall, on the Datchet side of the Thames, had a most beautiful dog of this description; for the convenience of the family a boat was kept, that they might at any time cross the water without the inconvenience of going a considerable way round to Datchet-bridge. The dog was so delighted with these aquatic trips, that he very rarely permitted the boat to go without him; in one of which it happened, that the coachman, who had been but little accustomed to the depths and shallows of the water, intending a forcible push with the punt-pole (which was not of sufficient length to reach the bottom), fell over the side of the boat in the deepest part of the water, and in the centrical part of the current, which accident was observed by a part of the family, then at

at the front windows of the house; sudden and dreadful as the alarm was, they had the consolation to see the sagacious, faithful animal instantaneously follow his companion, when, after diving, and making two or three abortive efforts, by laying hold of different parts of his apparel (which as repeatedly gave way, or overpowered his exertions), he then, with the most determined, energetic fortitude seized him by the arm, and brought him to the edge of the bank, where the domestics of the terrified family were ready to assist in extricating him from his perilous situation.

In a periodical publication of the year 1799, appeared the following recital, as a singular instance of sagacity in a dog:—"A gentleman of Suffolk being on an excursion with his friend, and having a Newfoundland dog of the party, he soon became the subject of conversation, when the master, after a warm eulogium upon his perfections, assured his companion that he would, upon receiving the order, return and fetch any article he should leave behind from any distance. To confirm this assertion, a marked shilling was put under a large square stone on the side of the road, being first shewn to the dog; the gentlemen then rode for three miles, when the dog received his signal from the master to return for the shilling he had seen put under the stone. The dog turned back; the gentlemen rode on and reached home; but, to their great surprize and disappointment, the hitherto faithful messenger did not return during the day.

It afterwards appeared, that he had gone to the place where the shilling was deposited, but the stone being too large for his strength to remove, he had staid howling at the place, till two horsemen riding by, and attracted by his seeming distress, stopped to look at him; when one of them alighting, removed the stone, and seeing the shilling, put it into his pocket, not at the time conceiving it was what the dog was so anxiously seeking for. The dog followed their horses for twenty miles, remained undisturbed in the room where they supped, followed the chambermaid into the bed-chamber, and secreted himself under one of the beds. The possessor of the shilling hung his breeches upon a nail by the bed-side; but, when the travellers were both asleep, the dog took them in his mouth, and leaping out of the window (which was left open on account of the sultry heat), reached the house of his master at four o'clock in the morning, with the prize he had made free with; in the pockets of which were found a watch and money

money, that were returned upon being advertised, when the whole mystery was mutually unravelled to the surprize of all the parties.

Whether some parts of this transaction may not be greatly exaggerated, is left for the opinion of every individual by whom it will be perused; but certain it is, an infinity of instances nearly similar might be introduced which, in number and singularity, would seem calculated to stagger the most pliable and condescending credulity. As, however, there must unavoidably appear a renewal of this part of the subject in different pages of the work, and under various heads, it is not necessary to prolong and render tedious what may prove applicable and entertaining when properly divided and dispersed in those places to which they will be found properly to belong: we proceed to a termination of this article with an impartial review of a most melancholy and unfortunate recent transaction, which unhappily originated in a casual, and unlucky meeting between two of the genuine species now under description.

It cannot be unknown to the experienced and enlightened, how much every man of humanity and sensibility feels for the safety of his faithful canine follower, whom he considers the companionable partner of his pleasures by day, as well as the guardian of his personal safety, and the protector of his property by night; and in whom he feels, as it were, habitually disposed to place a great share of his implicit confidence, and no small proportion of the most unsullied affection. To this excess of laudable irritability on both sides, may be attributed the fatal effects of a duel, almost unprecedented in its origin and the rapidity of its execution.

On Wednesday, the 6th of April, about four o'clock in the afternoon, as Colonel Montgomery of the 9th regiment, and Capt. Macnamara of the navy, were taking their ride in Hyde-Park, each followed by a favourite Newfoundland dog; these, without any previous indication of impending quarrel, suddenly and most unfortunately commenced a furious battle, during which, all within hearing seemed to be feelingly interested for their immediate separation; the more effectually to expedite which, Colonel Montgomery instantly dismounted, at the same time calling to Captain Macnamara, with some vehemence, "to call off his dog." Some altercation ensued, in which expressions of an irritating and acrimonious tendency passed, that occasioned a meeting in little more than

than two hours, when both were shot through the body; Colonel Montgomery expired almost instantly, but Captain Macnamara happily survived, and enjoys the consolation of having had his conduct investigated by a jury of his country, and honoured with an unqualified acquittal.

This duel, in respect to its origin, singular combination of circumstances, and fatal termination, is entitled to a concise statement of particulars here, as a place of record, to the purport of which it so immediately appertains. By the evidence of gentlemen of the greatest respectability (given before the coroner's jury, as well as upon the trial of Captain Macnamara,) it appeared, that after the animals were separated, expressions alternately followed, which each considered derogatory to the dignity, and degrading to the honour of an officer holding a high commission in the service of his sovereign. The language of Colonel Montgomery was deemed "arrogant" by Captain Macnamara; who in return was repeatedly told by the colonel, "if he felt himself hurt he knew where to find him." This, after a few minutes deliberation, being considered as tantamount to an oblique challenge, dependent entirely upon the will of Captain Macnamara; who conceiving his professional reputation at stake, was left, in his opinion (possessing a high sense of honour), without any other alternative, than a compliance with what seemed the wish of Colonel Montgomery to promote. Under the impressive influence of which reflection, Captain Macnamara, in a very few minutes after parting dispatched a friend who had been present during the whole transaction, to request the Colonel "would fix his time and place to adjust the misunderstanding;" to which the colonel replied, that "matters of this consequence were better settled as soon as possible," and appointed two hours from the time then present; adding, "he thought a pistol should be the weapon employed, as it was most used in this country."

In consequence of this arrangement, the meeting took place about seven in the evening, at Primrose Hill, near Chalk Farm, a mile from Paddington; Captain Macnamara was attended by his friend Captain Barry, and Mr. Heaviside, a surgeon of much celebrity; and Col. Montgomery by Sir William Keir. The parties were in waiting near half an hour before the Colonel arrived, who came in a coach, bringing his pistols with him. Upon his appearance Captain Macnamara dispatched his friend Captain Barry to ask, whether any apology would be made; which being answered in the negative, the seconds proceeded to measure the ground, which was precisely twelve fair paces. The ground

being

being thus regulated and mutually acceded to, each took his pistol, and, when both were presented, they seemed to have taken their aim, which Captain Macnamara steadily preserved; but Colonel Montgomery was observed to lower his hand, and take a new level, at which moment they both fired, and the latter instantly fell; not having provided any surgical assistance, Mr. Heaviside instantly offered his service; but, upon going to him, the colonel exclaimed—"I am shot through the heart," and almost instantly expired.

During the attention of Mr. Heaviside to Colonel Montgomery, it was mentioned by Captain Macnamara to Captain Barry, that "he was wounded also;" this requiring the presence of Mr. Heaviside, Captain Macnamara asked, upon his approach, if there was any danger; to which, upon Mr. Heaviside's replying "No," Capt. M. said, "I do not speak for myself; I mean for Colonel Montgomery, who, I fear, is dreadfully wounded." The seconds disappeared; Captain Macnamara was attended by Mr. Heaviside to Blake's hotel, and the corpse of Colonel Montgomery remained at Chalk Farm, for the inspection of the coroner's jury, who, after a most judicious investigation, returned a verdict of manslaughter.

This duel, sudden in its origin, and fatal in its effect, was attended with circumstances exceedingly singular, if not unprecedented, both in its progress and termination. Captain Macnamara's wound having been examined by surgeons of eminence, who declared on oath, that "he could not then be removed with safety, on account of an inflammation having taken place, occasioned by a part of the cloaths forced in by the ball remaining in the wound, which had produced a considerable degree of fever," he was permitted to remain in custody of the proper officer, at the hotel to which he had returned. On Thursday, the 14th, Mr. Heaviside having dressed his wound, and prepared to leave his patient for the day, was detained by Townsend, one of the officers of justice, who read to him a warrant from Sir Richard Ford, and arrested him as a principal in the murder of Colonel Montgomery. Upon which he was conveyed to Bow Street, where, after undergoing a private examination, he was fully committed to Newgate for trial, charged with aiding and assisting in the murder of Col. M.; such being the language of the law, that every individual present at a duel is considered as a principal if previously privy to the transaction.

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On the 20th bills of indictment were presented to the grand jury of the county of Middlesex against Capt. Macnamara, Mr. Heaviside, Sir William Keir, and Captain Barry; when some few witnesses for the prosecution were examined; but the grand jury finding no ground of serious charge against any of the parties, threw out the whole of the bills, and Mr. Heaviside was immediately discharged from his confinement in Newgate. On the 22d Captain Macnamara was removed, about nine in the morning, from the hotel where he had been continued in custody to the Old Bailey, where he was indicted upon the coroner's inquest, for manslaughter, in shooting at Robert Montgomery with a pistol loaded with a leaden ball, on Wednesday, the 6th of April, on Primrose Hill, in the parish of St. Pancras, whereby the said Robert Montgomery received a wound through the body of which he died.

To this indictment Capt. M. pleaded "not guilty;" when the evidence for the prosecution having been gone through (which consisted merely of a correct recital of the transaction from its unlucky origin to the termination), he was called upon for his defence; this he solicited permission to read from his chair, having, in consequence of weakness, been indulged with a seat from his first appearance at the bar, and concluded in the following words:—"Gentlemen, I am a captain in the British navy. My character you can only hear from others; but, to maintain my character in that station, I must be respected. When called upon to lead others into honourable danger, I must not be supposed to be a man who had sought safety by submitting to what custom has taught others to consider as a disgrace. I am not presuming to urge any thing against the laws of God, or of this land; I know that, in the eye of religion and reason, obedience to the law (though against the general feelings of the world) is the first duty, and ought to be the rule of action, but in putting a construction upon my motives, so as to ascertain the quality of my actions, you will make allowances for my situation. It is impossible to define in terms the proper feelings of a gentleman—but their existence has supported this happy country for many ages, and she might perish if they were lost. Gentlemen I will detain you no longer, I will bring before you many honourable persons, who will speak what they know of me in my profession and in private life, which will the better enable you to judge whether what I have offered in my defence may safely be received by you as truth. I submit myself, gentlemen, entirely to your judgments. I hope to obtain my liberty, through your verdict, and to employ it with honour in defence of the liberties of my country."

M. Erskine, as counsellor for the prisoner, thinking it unnecessary to prove the origin of the dispute, so repeatedly proved before, proceeded to call a most respectable list of witnesses to character; consisting of Lord Hood, Lord Nelson, Lord Minto, Sir Hyde Parker, Admiral Hotham, General Churchill, and a number of others, who afforded the most unequivocal testimonies of the mildness of Capt. M's manners, and the excellence of his disposition; when, after a concise and candid summing up of the evidence, the jury withdrew for twenty minutes, and returned a verdict of NOT GUILTY; in one respect to the great satisfaction, but no less admiration of a crowded court, before whom the judge, in addressing the jury, had just observed,—"The prisoner has acknowledged the fact; he has received a high character; but that can have no influence upon your verdict, whatever it may have upon the sentence which the court shall think it right to pronounce. You have only to consider whether the deceased fell by a wound given by the prisoner: It appears most clearly that he did. Gentlemen, consider of your verdict." Notwithstanding the decision did not accord with the indictment, the plea, the case proved, or the opinion of the great law authority who presided, it was received with pleasure by the public; and the jury probably sported the paradox, in compliment to the country from which the duellists derived their birth.

BULL

BULL DOG.

THIS particular race is admitted by every naturalist to have stood in an equal degree of originality with the shepherd's dog and the Irish greyhound; as well as to have been the native production of Britain, where the breed is still preserved in its natural purity, by that class of people who delight in a sport formerly in great estimation (with the lower orders), ~~but in~~ the present more humane and enlightened age is rapidly on the decline. The bull dog, though placidly serene and inoffensive in a state of domestication, forms to the eye of timidity a most terrific appearance; the suspicious and designing leer; the tiger-like shortness of the head; the ferocious under-hung jaw; the corresponding width of the forehead; the distension of the nostrils, and the almost constant sight of the teeth, hold forth a distinguishing specimen of the strength and power they possess, when angrily brought into action.

The bull dog, when irritated to a degree of indignation and resentment, may be considered the most courageous and unrelenting of the canine species; its sudden fury in silently attacking, and its invincible perseverance in maintaining its hold, are very far beyond the conception of those who have never been witnesses to their malevolent and destructive exertions. Their natural and inveterate antipathy to the bull, even in its calm and undisturbed state, is always matter of serious contemplation; the instinctive seeds of which aversion display themselves in the earliest months, and continue to increase with their growth and age. Puppies will attack a bull, and give ample proof of their breed and courage, when no more than six or seven months old, and if permitted to continue the combat, will suffer themselves to be destroyed rather than decline the contest.

Although this is sometimes done with one whelp of a litter, to demonstrate the purity of the blood, and to prove there has been no chance, or improper

cross, by which the fame of futurity may be affected; yet they are, in general, seldom entered in a regular ring, till some time between the fifteenth and eighteenth month, and even then but with a degree of mildness and mediocrity; the ligamentary junction of the ossified parts not having acquired the strength and firmness which constitute maturity in less than two years; nor are they, with the amateurs of bull-baiting, considered in their prime till four or five years old. It is a distinguished and an invariable trait in the true-bred bull dog to attack the animal in front, and never to make a cowardly attempt at the extremities; any dog doing which, is directly concluded to have undergone a greater or less degree of degeneracy from the original purity of the blood. The dog whose breed has been preserved genuine and uncontaminate, aims at, and makes most ferociously for the face of the bull, and sinking closer to the ground the nearer he approaches, makes a desperate effort to seize upon the lip, as the most tender seat of irritability and excruciating pain, if he succeeds in the attempt: failing in which, he relaxes not in his efforts, but with the most incredible and determined fury fastens upon the tongue, the eye, the under-jaw, the throat, or some part about the head or face (never degrading his character by making a pusillanimous attempt behind), where having secured his hold, he retains it beyond the power of description, in opposition to every energetic and desperate effort of the bull to get himself disengaged from so furious and blood-thirsty an opponent.

This peculiar breed is not so numerous, or so nicely attended to as formerly, in consequence of the decline of what was then a favourite sport, and the great number purchased and transported to other countries, for which the most enormous prices have been given; their natural ferocity, alarming appearance, and thirst for blood, having in an unrestrained state rendered them a nuisance to the timid and feminine branches of society, they are, on that account, but little seen at liberty in either town or country; the owners, from a proper sence of safety to the public, or a self-interested fear of the law, finding it more prudent to keep them properly confined.

The sport of bull-baiting (to the lovers of which they were so truly valuable) was, within the memory of thousands of the present generation, not merely a pleasing, or rapturous entertainment, but a most ecstatic gratification, particularly to the most unfeeling and least humane of the very lowest and most abandoned orders of the people. In fact, to such a degree of prevalence and unqualified

qualified cruelty, had it arrived in particular parts of the country, as well as in certain districts in the environs of the metropolis; and was so much considered likely to give additional callosity to the minds of its cruel and inconsiderate abettors, that the more humane and polished classes of society anxiously interfered by strong and repeated efforts for its total abolition: to obtain which, a bill was brought into the House of Commons, and supported by a considerable combination of powerful interest, but was rejected by a small majority, leaving the unmerciful sport at the full liberty of every subject to promote and enjoy, who is not restrained by any more humane, sublime, and manly sensations, prompting him to consider it a matter "more honour'd in the breach than the observance."

The first bull-baiting well authenticated to have taken place, was during the reign of King John in 1209, at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, and originated in the following circumstance:—William, Earl Warren, Lord of Stamford, standing upon the walls of the castle, saw two bulls fighting for a cow in the castle meadow, till all the butcher's dogs pursued one of the bulls (maddened with noise and multitude) entirely through the town. This sight so pleased the earl, that he gave the castle meadow, where the bull's combat began, for a common to the butchers of the town, after the first grass was mowed, on condition that they should find "a mad bull," the day six weeks before Christmas-day, for the continuance of "that sport for ever."

A similar institution, under the appellation of bull-running, was established at Tutbury, in Staffordshire, about the year 1734, where, by the custom of the manor, a bull was given by the prior to his minstrels. After the mortifying torture of having his horns cut off, his ears and tail cropped and docked to the very stump, his nostrils filled with pepper, and his body besmeared with soap, he was turned out in this wretched and deplorable state to be hunted by the multitude; and when taken, or obstructed long enough to pull off some hair, his liberty was at an end, and he was then chained to the stake to be baited by dogs. To the very great honour of the Duke of Devonshire (as steward of Tutbury), and no less so to those of the inhabitants who petitioned against it, this cruel and ridiculous custom was entirely abolished in the year 1778.

By a will bearing date May 15, 1661, one George Staverton gave the whole rent of his dwelling-house, situate at Staines, in Middlesex (after two lives), to

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buy a bull annually for ever; which bull he gave to the poor of the town of Wokingham, in Berkshire, to be there baited, then killed and equitably divided; the offal, hide and gift-money (collected from the spectators) to be laid out in shoes and stockings to be distributed among the children of the poor. The chief alderman, and one Staverton (if one of the name should be living in the town or neighbourhood) to see the work truly and justly performed, that one of the poors' piece did not exceed another in bigness. These seem to have been the principal donations upon record, upon which the practice was originally founded, and since continued upon the plausible pretext of charity for its justification; to give it a still greater degree of singularity in the town of Wokingham, St. Thomas's day is annually dedicated to the sublimity of the sport, and the public market-place, the precise spot invariably destined to the sacrifice.

Previous to farther animadversions upon a subject that, by the most opulent and distinguished, has been thought worthy the consideration of the British senate; it becomes directly applicable to introduce an unexaggerate description of the "hellish sport," for the more perfect comprehension of those who have never engaged in scenes of such premeditated persecution and unrelenting barbarity. The bull having been purchased for the purpose, is brought (generally accompanied by a female associate) from the peaceful and sequestered shades where he has so long reigned the unmolested monarch, to a receptacle previously provided for him to undergo the ceremonious prelude to his future miseries. Immured within the narrow confines of a prison, and separated from the old and faithful companions, to whose friendly affections his whole existence has been invariably appropriate, the customary process is thus proceeded upon.

While yet in a state of gentleness, or kind of confident subservience to the will of man (by whom he has never yet been seriously disquieted, or unnecessarily alarmed), he submits his neck to a leather collar of adequate breadth and strength, to which is annexed a combined rope and chain of full fifteen yards or more in length; and the points of the horns having been previously muffled with an adhesive composition of tow, tallow, and pitch, by the leading amateurs of this humane society, the inoffensive animal thus manacled is, amidst the shouts of an exulting multitude, dragged along, and in a tumultuous roar of low-lived glory ignominiously fixed to the stake. In this state he is, perhaps, accidentally permitted to stand a few moments undisturbed; affording,

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to the reflecting mind, a picturesque representation of dignified patience opposed to the utmost extent of insatiate power and malicious persecution; seeming sympathetically to excite compassion by the calm and submissive attitude he assumes, which, in the "mind's eye" of the contemplative, impressively exclaims,

"Behold, here I stand
"An animal more sinn'd against, than sinning."

This is the aweful and expectant crisis, where most probably a momentary silence is observed to prevail; but it proves no more than one of those fleeting cessations in a storm which renders the reverberation of re-doubled violence. A few minutes deliberation might stagger the resolutions of those "unused to the melting mood," and retard the career of insensibility, if the dormant remains of humanity were, for even a few minutes, permitted to be assailed; every possibility of reflection is therefore instantaneously dispelled, by the increasing and tumultuous clamour of those desperadoes best calculated to commence the attack: this is done by a most dreadful complication of bellowings, hootings, hissings, and shoutings horrid beyond the power of literary description. During the time the most abandoned of the variegated crew are, with hats and huzzaings, endeavouring to irritate the bull before an equal degree of cruelty stimulates their confederates to similar severities behind; where some provided with sharp pointed sticks, and others with the addition of nails inserted, proceed to puncture certain parts, as well as to painful twistings of the tail, that the poor animal is at length roused from his previous state of patient humiliation to a temporary madness. Having enraged him to a pitch of absolute phrenzy, it is at the very critical moment of this horrid and general exclamation that the first dog is so suddenly let loose amongst the crowd, to explore the object of his natural antipathy, and this, to the truly refined sensations of a professed bull-baiter, is the most exulting and extatic instant of his existence; his whole soul is absorbed in the imaginary magnitude of the concern; the mind or memory is no longer itself, but so completely involved in the vortex of confusion, that every individual tormentor is proportionally mad with the unfortunate and enraged object of his cruel and unrelenting persecution.

For many days before, "every heart beats high with the coming joy," and at the commencement of the attack, not a window but is filled with women and

and children to enjoy the tender scene; not a street or avenue but is crowded with brutes, the very scum and refuse of the surrounding country, to partake of, and revel in the most cruel and infernal practice that ever entered the mind of man under the prostituted appellation of sport to the multitude. Let the reflecting mind indulge a few moments upon the dreadful scene and awful "note of preparation." On a day when every enlightened frame and well-disposed heart must feel powerfully inclined to follow the dictates of religious inculcation; when a certain impressive silence pervades the whole; when the devout, the aged, and the infirm, await the signal by which they are summoned to receive every consolatory comfort from clerical benediction; it must be to all good hearts a mortifying circumstance, that the very bell which solemnly tolls to bring the moral and religious part of the inhabitants to their christian duty in the church, should be also the signal agreed on for bringing a poor, harmless, unoffending animal in chains to the stake; and, incredible as it may seem to those whose feelings are not lulled to an apathy, or who have never witnessed the cruelty of the scene, that this stake is fixed in the center of the market-place, of a town no more than twelve miles from the seat of majesty at his court of Windsor, and thirty only from the metropolis of this great and enlightened kingdom.

The sport having began as before described, the scene gradually advances to a state of noise, riot, clamour and confusion, exceeding every human conception; the anxious and impatient howlings of the dogs held in hand, eager to be let loose at the object of their prey; the horrid roaring and dreadful bellowings of the bull, at this time probably pinned by the nose to the ground; the dangerous pressings, and incessant hallooing and huzzaing of the mob; with the tremendous trampling of the enraged and furious animal, all combine to constitute an aggregate, from which the mind of sensibility retreats with horror, and claims a temporary chasm to renew the description. The first dog, perhaps, from the fresh, healthy, and unsubdued strength of the bull, inadequate to the wishes of his adherents, and not able to succeed farther than to increase the fury of the bull, is probably assisted by a second, which instantly rousing the victim at the stake to an increased exertion of rage and self-defence, as evidently enhances the horrid happiness of the multitude to a zenith of exultation beyond all power of imagination, to which the descriptive pen must bow obedience, and avow its inability.

Should the poor persecuted animal, by its bodily strength and energetic exertions, display sufficient power to keep its inveterate foes at bay, and preserve its nostrils from the blood-thirsty fangs of such obdurate opponents; delay does but increase the malevolent ardour of those previously determined, and the disappointment they encounter only renders them the more violent in adopting new measures to subdue. In the gratification of which implacable intent, a third dog is sometimes let loose (as it were by accident) to assist the other two; when under so severe a weight of accumulated oppression exhausted nature sinks, and opposition is of no effect, the poor pitiable object is pinned to the ground; by the most irritable and tender part about him, bleeding and bellowing amidst the shameless shouts of a shameful victory, where a ragged crew of five hundred greater brutes have, by a most unprincipled and inhuman stretch of power and force, brought a lesser to the ground.

Not to prolong a description so shocking, beyond the length proper for its perfect comprehension, it must suffice to observe, that the cruelty is extended by every device and invention that can tend to assist the cause. Prizes in gold, silver, or collars, are usually advertised at the most celebrated places of sport, for the best dogs who run at, and pin the bull; thereby inducing the owners to bring them the greater distance, not more to prolong and lengthen the sport, than to prevent the unfortunate subject of mangled misery from dying too easy a death.

In the midst of his sufferings, if the minds of his hellish tormentors have not been sufficiently satiated with repetitions of what has past, collateral aids are called in to rouse his powers (by an unceasing scene of persecution wearied to an apathy) of defence and resentment once more into action. Instances are common where fires have been made under the very body of the bull, when too much worn down and exhausted, by the jerks of the chain and the worrying of the dogs longer to exert himself; patiently he stands, with the blood streaming from his mangled nostrils, totally insensible to the inhuman twistings of his tail almost to dislocation; the continued goring with tucks (short sticks pointed with nails), and a long list of experiments equally to be abhorred, all tend to strengthen most incontrovertibly, the dreadful effects such practice (so exultingly enjoyed) will naturally have upon the rising generation, whose minds must, by a familiarity with the frequency of the scene, be rendered totally callous to

every sensation of tenderness and humanity, even in the very hour of infantine infatuation.

Those who are disposed, or accustomed to ruminate upon causes and effects, will readily conceive how much the frequent repetition of so much insatiate cruelty will unfavourably affect the rising offspring of the lower classes, in towns and districts where a custom so generally execrated, is so shamefully carried on, in opposition to every humane and strenuous effort for its abolition. In the church of Wokingham (at the instigation of the Rev. Mr. Bremner, resident clergyman of the parish), on Sunday, the 20th of December, 1801, being the day previous to St. Thomas, the day of the annual ceremony, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Barry, which having been since published, contains the following serious admonitions:

"Gracious God! benevolent parent of the universe, what prodigy must he be in a Christian land, who could thus disgrace his nature by such gigantic infamy, at which the blood of a heathen, of a very Hottentot might curdle! Two useful animals, the bull who propagates our food, and the faithful dog who protects our property, to be thus tormented! and for what purpose? Does it tend, as some have said,* to keep alive the spirit of the English character? In answer to this we must remark, that the barbarous sport (if sport it can be called) was totally unknown to the ancient bravery of our ancestors; was introduced into this country during the reign of a bad king; and earnestly do I pray to Almighty God, that in the reign of a most pious and benevolent prince, it may be for ever set aside. Cowards, of all men the least unmoved, can both inflict and witness cruelties.

"The heroes of a bull-bait, the patrons of mercenary pugilists, and the champion of a cock-fight, can produce, I should think, but few, if any, disciples brought up under their tuition who have done service to their country, either as warriors or as citizens; but abundant are the testimonies which have been registered at the gallows of her devoted victims, trained up to these pursuits of bull-baiting!!!"

* Mr. W. in the House of Commons.

It

It is universally known amongst the lovers of bull dogs and bull-baiting, that when once exasperated by an opponent or encouraged by the owner, no pain or punishment will allay or induce him to swerve from his purpose, or the least relax in the violence of his endeavours to subdue whatever may be the object of his dislike or resentment. Amidst the various instances which might be adduced, one well-authenticated fact will be amply sufficient to corroborate the assertion. Some years since, when bull-baiting was held in much higher estimation, than in the present state of civilization and refinement; a juvenile amateur of the "sublime and beautiful," inhumanly confident in the pure blood and instinctive courage of his dog, proposed a trifling wager; "that he would, at four distinct intervals, deprive the animal of one of his feet by amputation; and, that after every individual deprivation, he should attack the bull with his previous ferocity; and, that lastly, he should continue so to do upon his stumps." Shocking as the recital must prove to the feelings of every reader, the experiment was made, and the result sufficiently demonstrated the truth of the prediction.

 POINTER.

POINTER.

THE pointer, notwithstanding the beautiful uniformity of his frame, the docility of his disposition and his almost unlimited utility, has been less noticed by naturalists than any other individual of the species; hence it may be fairly inferred, this particular breed was formerly unknown in Britain, and that the stock was originally of foreign extraction. A combination of circumstances tend to justify the predominant opinion, that they were first introduced into this country from Spain (very little more than two centuries since), and that the heavy, awkward, slow, and somniferous appearance of the Spanish pointer is now nearly lost, in what may be candidly considered the judicious crosses and improved breed of our own.

It is within the memory of the present generation, when the former were exceedingly common in every part of the kingdom; but so infinitely numerous have been the speculative changes in collateral consanguinity, that one of the original breed is very rarely to be seen. This can create no surprise when it is recollected, that as there is no one of the species who can contribute more to the pursuits and contemplative pleasures of sportsmen in general, it was the more natural to expect that greater efforts would be made to approach as near as possible to perfection. In this universality of opinion, such emulative struggles arose for superiority in the sporting world, that this particular breed has been so crossed, re-crossed, bred in and bred out to gratify the intent of various individuals (as prompted by fancy, fashion, or caprice), that they are now to be seen of all sizes, colours, and qualifications; from the slow, short-muzzled, heavy shouldered remains of the perfect Spanish pointer (incapable of a second day's work), to the in-and-in cross with a fox-hound, none of which are ever known to tire, and have frequently speed enough to catch a half-grown leveret if they happen to jump up before them.

Painted by P. Reinagle, Esq. R.A. Engraved by J. Scott.

POINTER.

It is no more than thirty or forty years since the breed of pointers were nearly white, or mostly variegated with liver-coloured spots; except the celebrated stock of the then celebrated Duke of Kingston, whose breed of blacks were considered superior to all in the kingdom, and sold for immense sums after his death. But so great has been the constantly increasing attachment to the sports of the field, particularly of the gun, that they have been since bred of every description, from a pure white, and a flea-bitten blue or grey, to a complete liver-colour or perfect black. After every experiment that can have been possibly made by the best judges and most energetic amateurs in respect to size, it seems at length a decided opinion with the majority, that when bred for every species of game and every diversity of country, both extremes are better avoided, and the line of mediocrity more advantageously adhered to; overgrown, fat, and heavy dogs very soon get weary in the hot and early part of the season; the smaller sort are likewise attended with inconvenience in hunting high turnips, heath, ling, and broom-fields.

It is a maxim much believed and frequently verified, that "there is hardly a convenience without an inconvenience;" so as some advantages have been derived from the infinity of experimental crosses, both in respect to speed and the durability of labour and fatigue, so something has been sacrificed upon the score of patient forbearance and olfactory sensibility; the gradational shades and predominant propensity of each breed introduced by every change (or cross) having so diversified the present stock, that the more trouble is experienced in making a pointer staunch for the field, in proportion as you are the more degrees removed from the original Spanish race with whom the point was supposed to have been inherent.

The impatient dispositions and volatile rapidity of many, may have prompted them to an ideal possibility, and consequent attempt of introducing a breed with speed sufficient to outstrip the vivid extent of their own imaginations; that they might, by a kind of preternatural paradox, enjoy the supreme felicity of hunting and shooting at the same time; and from the indulgence of this suggestion may have arisen the emulative struggle for an increase of speed in addition to point, which has at length been accomplished to a most admirable degree of perfection. Pointers, however well they may have been bred, are never considered complete unless they are perfectly staunch (as it is termed) to "bird, dog, and gun;" which uniformly implies, first, standing singly to a bird, or

covey;

covey; secondly to backing (or pointing instantly likewise) the moment one perceives another dog to stand; and lastly not to stir from his own point, at the rising of any bird, or the firing of any gun in the field, provided the game is neither sprung nor started at which he made his original point.

To acquire these degrees of perfection the pliability and mildness of the pointer's natural disposition is most admirably adapted, for independent of the attracting symmetry of his form, the sincerity of his unceasing attention, and the placid serenity of his unvaried attachment, he perceptibly possesses all those interior and inexplicable qualities calculated to command the confidence of man, whom he is so incessantly industrious to please, and to whose inculcations he is so constantly anxious to become obedient. So soon as he grows into a consciousness of his own powers and promised utility, he avails himself of every opportunity that can possibly recommend his services, by the most fervent and solicitous prostrations at the feet of his master, eagerly and instinctively anxious to make his industrious efforts in the field.

The art of breaking pointers was formerly considered a most difficult and mysterious concern; many of those denominated dog-breakers having nearly derived their sole subsistence from such employment; that charm however has been long since broken, and the simplicity of the process is now so generally known amongst sporting practitioners, that a tolerably well-bred pointer puppy may have the ground-work of all his future perfections theoretically implanted in the parlour, or kitchen of the dwelling-house, before he once makes his appearance in the field. The instinctive impulse of this breed is frequently seen to display itself in subjects no more than three or four months old; where in still and uninterrupted situations puppies may be observed most earnestly standing at chickens, pigeons, and even sparrows upon the ground by sight, before the olfactory powers can be supposed to have attained maturity to prompt a point by scent.

When a whelp of this description has reached his sixth or seventh month, the process may be proceeded upon in the following way; and either a single dog, a brace, or more, may be managed with equal ease, in any convenient spot, room, or yard, at the same time, with no other assistance whatever, than the alternate expressions of "To ho!"—"Have a care!"—and "Take heed!" (having the small field-whip in hand to impress attention and enforce obedience)

 although

although the most attracting meat is tossed before them in every direction. The commencement of the ceremony consists in throwing a piece of bread at some small distance before the dog, who upon making his effort to obtain it, must be instantly checked by a quick exclamation of "have a care!" and the assistant terms alternately repeated, to keep him in a patient point of perseverance; till having given ample proof of his obedience to the injunction, and stood time sufficient to demonstrate his comprehension of the restraint he must occasionally encounter; a vibrative low-toned whistle, accompanied with a mild ejaculation of "hie on," will prove the signal for proceeding, which the whole will quickly learn to obey; and it will be found by practice, that one or more, may at the very moment of seizing either the bread or the meat, be as instantly stopped and made to renew their point, by a repetition of either of the verbal cautions previously observed.

Young dogs having thus coolly and deliberately imbibed the fundamental principles upon which they are to act, have the full force of nature and their predominant propensity to point out their practice when brought into the field. Very few well-bred pointers are seen who hunt too little, the greater part are inclined to range too much; and then it is that the cool and steady patience of the experienced sportsman is the more requisite to check the impetuosity. Juvenile and inconsiderate gunners materially injure young and unsteady dogs, by keeping them under as little restraint as they wish to be kept themselves; too often letting them break away without respect to distance, till by custom they acquire a habit of inattention and disobedience (to word or whistle), of which they are not easily divested without much severity and flagellation.

Whatever may have been adopted by way of theoretic inculcation during the early months, no dog should be brought regularly into the field for constant (or even easy use), till nearly or full a twelvemonth old; if so, and they become frequently weary and foot-sore, it sometimes produces an habitual lassitude and bodily indifference that is never after shaken off. When first entered, it should be alone, and with a sportsman whose experience has convinced him young dogs should from the earliest moment of their initiation, be taught to traverse every yard of the ground (in proper lengths and at equal distances) so that no one part should be left unbeaten; and this should be effected with as few words, and as little noise as possible. Short, verbal, but expressive signals; low, vibrative, encouraging whistles; and the occasional waving of one hand or the

the other, to the right or left are all that's necessary or useful; more does mischief; one steady shot of this description, with only a brace of pointers obedient to command, and steady to dog and gun, will kill more game in any country than a noisy crew with three or four brace in company.

The complete and perfect qualifications of a pointer, are so indispensibly necessary to success in the acquisition of game, as well as in assisting to form a good shot; that young dogs should never be permitted to deviate from the proper rule of quartering the ground before them and directly in this way; that is, to cover a line of three-score yards transversely in the front of his master, by taking thirty yards to the right and then re-passing him take thirty yards to the left, where he again turns, and continues that routine in such proportions, as not to let his crossings and re-crossings be more than five and twenty or thirty yards from each other. When a brace of pointers or more are hunted they should alternately cross the same beat, by meeting and passing each other, taking additional ground at each turn, but should not beat the same way in a parallel direction.

When a young dog is once made steady to bird and gun; broke from a natural desire to chase his game, and rendered obedient to every signal it is necessary for him to know and observe, then is the proper time to entertain him in company, that he may avail himself of the advantages to be derived from hunting with older and more staunch and experienced dogs than himself. Previous to this introduction (when hunted alone) so soon as he knows his game, and is energetically anxious in the pursuit of it, feel for the wind, and let him have it as much in his favour as the form of the field and circumstances will permit. So soon as he comes to a point, a pause should ensue, and he should be permitted to enjoy it; not a buz, a word, or exclamation should escape by which he might be agitated to action; the necessary injunctions to caution should be tremulously vibrated upon the ear, till the fire of his eye, the distension of the nostril, the elated loftiness of the aspect, and the seeming spasmodic affection of his whole frame (produced by the effect of the olfactory irritability), affords ample proof the game is indisputably before him.

This is the critical and awfully affecting moment when the feelings of both are worked upon, and it is also the very moment when the most philosophic patience is necessary to be observed. Now is the time, if the game luckily lies, to

to advance nearer by degrees, but with all possible precaution of silence and deliberation. Approach him first on one side, then on the other, if possible, without springing the birds; if they continue to lie favourably for the purpose, walk in a circle entirely round them and the dog, by which practice he will be soon convinced his persevering point must correspond with whatever may prove the occasion. When time sufficient has been employed to confirm his steadiness, the game may be then walked up, and whether fired at or not, the first consideration is to prevent his chasing; this is a most important part of his education, and must not be inadvertently delayed to the chance pages of futurity. If a shot is made, whether with or without success, it is equally the duty of the dog to remain with the gun till it is re-charged, previous to his again advancing in pursuit of game, and this depends entirely upon the firmness of the party concerned; if which authority is not invariably supported, the dog, however excellent in other respects, is proportionally prevented reaching the summit of perfection.

Some there are who consider it a qualification in a pointer to bring the game to foot when killed, and those who wish it, will find it easy of attainment, by teaching them to fetch and carry before they are at all accustomed to the field; it is a mode of being employed they are much delighted with, and never forget, but is attended with the chance of one inconvenience annexed to the experiment; if they become hard-mouthed, and take to breaking both flesh and feather, it is a fault, or rather crime which generally becomes incorrigible, and is hardly ever obliterated without incessant trouble and much distressing severity. This circumstance so naturally likely to occur, it is the more necessary to bring to memory, because punishment is at all times unpleasant to the humane and liberal-minded sportsman, who will coincide with the writer in opinion, that prudent prevention is preferable to the uncertainty of cure; and that a slight and salutary correction to-day, may sometimes render unnecessary the doubly and trebly enhanced deserts of to-morrow.

However infinite the services of the canine species are admitted, and however refined the sensations of their advocates may be in respect to the punishment they are destined to receive; it must be brought to recollection, that trifling corrections cannot be dispensed with, as they are the necessary and unavoidable antidotes to evils of a much more formidable extent. If we for a

moment advert to the species in their original state, we shall recal to memory, that they are by nature wild and disposed to depredation; and unless preserved in the state of subjection to which they have been reduced, might individually incline to riot, mischief, and confusion. The most moderate and least attentive observers are not without proof of their tendency in puppy-hood, to an attack upon sheep, pigs, and poultry, which frequently prove so destructive to the property of neighbours, and so vexatious to the owners; that, agitating as such punishment may be to the feelings of those concerned, it must be inflicted occasionally with an exemplary severity, upon the justly admitted principle that "of two evils we ought to choose the least," and it is only by due subordination in the earliest stages of initiation that future observance and obedience is to be obtained.

Young dogs, from high blood and eager impetuosity, are inclined to a rapidity, that frequently irritates the feelings, and is productive of agitating passions, which destroy the coolness and serenity so evidently necessary to the successful executioner of the gunner in the field. They become impatient in their point, rush in, spring the birds, and chase them in their flight; these are faults of the worst description, and if not completely eradicated in the first two or three weeks of embarkation are seldom overcome at all. In correction so palpably indispensible, moderation should maintain its preponderation in opposition to the effect of passion, sometimes too readily and violently excited by the mortifying disappointments which (after an infinity of fatigue) so often ensue; words of reproach and gentle punishment are prudently preferable to severe and indignant kicks, blows with the but of the gun, or unmerciful beatings; a succession of such treatment being more likely to keep him obstinately at a distance (when a fault has been committed) than induce him to approach reproof, knowing he has it to encounter.

Pointers, though adequate to different degrees of sporting destination are, principally appropriated to the purposes of partridge, grouse, and snipe-shooting; as the particular kinds of sport where their merits become more strikingly conspicuous, and can be more pleasingly enjoyed than is possible in pheasant or cock-shooting, where the most enlivening spirit of the pursuit is buried in the obscurity of the remote and wooded situation. Partridge-shooting to a contemplative mind and ruminative disposition, must be admitted of a much more

gratifying

gratifying description; for the objects of pursuit being found chiefly in the open country, every minute part of the sport is distinctly seen and proportionally enjoyed.

In partridge-shooting, pointers only are brought into the field, at least with those who rank as sportsmen, and hold the appellation in too much respect to degrade its distinction; and it is never pursued with greater consistency, enjoyed with more unsullied satisfaction to the parties, or crowned with brighter rays of success, than when too many guns, or too many dogs are not seen in the field at the same time. Any number beyond two of the former, with a brace and half, or two brace of the latter in one company, evidently denote much more of poaching rapacity and an inadvertent or unintentional annihilation of game, than of sporting equity and gentleman-like forbearance. The modern introduction and fashionable use of double-barrelled guns, partake a little too powerfully of the same impression; being most inhumanly and admirably calculated to promote that very scarcity of game, these tender-hearted professors (of self-denial) are always the first to complain of.

That great incentive to emulation, the art of shooting flying, in which many are so exceedingly expert, and which by care, attention, and perseverance, may be so easily attained, is not, in general, acquired with that facility by younger sportsmen, as might naturally be expected where so much time and earnest anxiety is dedicated to the purpose. This seriously considered, is to be solely attributed to the timidity, volatility, anxiety and agitated impatience of the mind, at the very critical moment when all should be quiet and calm within, and all around "as silent as the grave; but at the seemingly awful and impressive crisis, when the sudden point takes place, the animal fixed immoveable, and his eyes have assumed the form of fire, under an instinctive magnetic impulse, which instantaneously excites in the human frame a most inexpressive sensation (the heart palpitating with hope, fear, and suspence), the birds probably rise, and with so much alarming noise and rapidity, that the body and mind being equally agitated, no distinct bird is singled out for the aim at the instant of pulling the trigger, and the whole escape; to the great mortification of the party concerned, who is lost in surprise and admiration at the event.

It is well known to those who are expert in the practice, that there is no pursuit, game, or amusement that can possibly require a nicer eye, a steadier hand,

 a cooler

a cooler head, or a more philosophic patience than the sport before us. Sportsmen of experience waste neither their time, nor their labour; they well know where to find the birds according to the time of the day, and are seldom or ever seen to hunt their dogs in unlikely places. They cover the ground slowly and deliberately, that none should be left unbeaten, or birds be left behind; when a dog stands (and it is seen by the point he is sure of his game) the master should stand still also; the general stillness settles the dog more firmly to his point, and the birds are always the more likely to lie. If the gunner is young and impatient, hurrying up as many of that description frequently do, it hurries the dog also, and not only makes him eagerly impatient, but the game in the confusion probably rises out of shot; or what is equally productive of mortification, he gets up to the point so flurried and out of breath, that he finds it impracticable to take regular aim; and when he erroneously conceives he does, the bodily tremor he is in, renders the shot nine times out of ten ineffectual.

To acquire a systematic proficiency, and to become a good shot, certain rules are indispensibly necessary, the most predominant of which is mental coolness and steady deliberation; those of too hasty and impetuous a disposition seldom exceed the line of mediocrity. When a dog has been permitted to enjoy his point a proper length of time, whether the birds are intentionally sprung, or rise spontaneously, the gun should never be advanced to the shoulder till the bird, or the covey are calmly and patiently surveyed, and the individual bird fixed upon at which the aim is intended to be taken; this done, and the eye not removed from the devoted object till the instrument of death is brought to its "deadly level," the sight once caught, and the trigger drawn in the corresponding twinkling, success in most cases must inevitably ensue.

It is a remark worthy attention, that in shooting, the progress to perfection is greatly retarded (particularly amongst the juvenile branches of sporting society when shooting in company) by emulatively and almost invariably, but very inconsistently endeavouring to obtain the first shot; the error being mutual, so is the disappointment; probably both, or all (if more fire) miss, to which follows a vacant stare of individual mortification with a sensation of disgrace: but if a bird happens to fall, it is frequently productive of clamour and general jealousy, sometimes claimed by both or all, laying the foundation of acidities about a paltry partridge, which have never terminated but with the lives of the parties. The prudent and the patient, who shoot in company, will be found circumspect

cumspect and consistent in every motion; they will neither of them take aim at the first bird which happens to rise (to be confused by those that follow) or fix upon a bird on the left hand when his companion is on that side; the right-hand man and the left should invariably adhere to birds going off on their own sides, but when their flight is made in a direct line forward, circumstances must regulate and justify proceedings accordingly.

Grouse-shooting, of which a very accurate representation is given in the plate annexed, differs but little from the sport already described, except its being much more laborious, taking place in the more sultry months, and in the more hilly and mountainous countries. This species of game is not like the partridge, universally dispersed over the face of the kingdom at large, but is the native of some particular space or district in wild, remote, and peculiar situations. They were at no distant period to be frequently seen in different parts of the Principality, as well as in the New Forest in Hampshire, where they are now very much reduced and rarely to be found, at least in number sufficient to render the sport matter of attraction.

In the northern counties bordering upon the Tweed, and in various parts of Scotland, they are so numerous that many of the most opulent and energetic sportsmen make very long and expensive journies to satiate themselves with an unrestrained profusion of sport. There are two distinct kinds of grouse, one passing under the denomination of black, the other red grouse; the former of which is delineated in the plate annexed, and lays well-founded claim to sporting attention. These fowls (called also moor or heath-fowl) adhere mostly to mountains and moors principally covered with heath, seldom or ever descending into the lower grounds. They fly in packs consisting of four or five brace, and take every opportunity of baskingly indulging upon the intervening beds of moss, particularly in the extreme heat of the summer season.

The cackling noise of the cock is always made as a signal of alarm upon the approach of danger, and may be heard at a considerable distance; and when once the dog has made his point, the cock is generally the first bird upon wing. So soon as the pointer is observed to stand firm, it is instantly necessary to keep the eye attentively forward; for if the birds are perceived to erect their heads and run, it is considered a fair prognostic they will not lie well before the dogs during the day; in which case there is no alternative but to head the dog and keep pace with them if possible, so as to be within shot when they rise; if

 which

which advantage is not taken, many a long and laborious day may be encountered without the consolatory compensation of a single bird.

As the time for grouse-shooting commences by legislative limitation (Aug. 12) at the most sultry season of the year, and principally in remote and distant parts of the country, very few of these birds reached the metropolis, before the present expeditious modes of conveyance were adopted; at least in such state as to be rendered perfectly grateful to the purposes of the table. If not killed remarkably clean, they are very soon disposed to putridity, and if required or intended to be sent to any great distance, they should be drawn so soon as it can be made convenient after they are shot, and the cavity filled with fine heath or sweet herbage for the journey.

In addition to the utility and peculiar applicability of the pointer to the sports already recited, he is equally adapted to, and constantly used for snipe-shooting; one of the pleasures of the field the best calculated to try the persevering fag and bottom of a sportsman, of any yet to be recounted. If he is not possessed of all the fortitude, patient perseverance, and indefatigable exertion of a water-spaniel, he had better never be induced to the embarkation, at least with any well-founded expectation of success. To wet, dirt, difficulty, and disappointment, he must be habitually inured, in body he must be almost invulnerable, with a constitution impregnable to the whole phalanx of morbidity, and a mind most philosophically at ease. " Thus "armed at all points" for land or water, moor or mire, swamps, fens, or bogs, snipe-shooting is a most excellent diversion, particularly in spots celebrated for their reception; in many of which, when the weather is favourable and the season kind, the sport is so incessant, that those who pursue it have frequent occasion to wait for the cooling of the gun-barrel before they can renew it.

Snipes are birds of passage and consist of two kinds, one called a jack, the other a whole snipe, the latter being nearly double the size of the former; they are constantly found upon the same ground and sometimes close to each other. They are said to breed mostly in the low and swampy parts of Germany and Switzerland, varying but little, if any with the flights of woodcocks in the time of their arrival in this country, which is in general about the first autumnal rains in October. Notwithstanding the greater bodies return to the above countries in the spring, yet it is certain some small proportion remain in England during the summer, and breed in the marshes and fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridge-

shire,

shire, and Essex, where their nests are frequently found with eggs, as well as with young.

Pointers palpably enjoy this sport in an equal degree with any other, and it is well worth remark with the contemplative sportsman, that notwithstanding this species of bird is so diminutive, when put into competition with the different articles of game, that the dog is so much and so constantly accustomed to, yet he is known to stand equally staunch even to the jack (which is the smallest of the two) as he does to either the hare, the pheasant, or the partridge. Snipes when found, lay in general well to the dog, particularly if the atmosphere is heavy, and the air dense; but the moment they are upon the wing and fix their flight against the wind, they go off in such a twisting and twirling direction, that they are then an object very difficult to insure good aim at; but by waiting with patience till they take their intended line, the shot may be made with a much greater probability of success. They are considered in season from November to March, killed at any other time they mostly appear with a branny scurf upon their bodies as if diseased and in a state of emaciation.

Partridge-shooting begins according to act of parliament on the first of September annually, and terminates on the first of February next ensuing, and is a sport so perfectly congenial to the disposition of the people, and so truly conducive to the great blessing of health, that its votaries seem to increase in proportion to the conditional restraints of parliamentary prohibition. This species of game are not in equal abundance every year, but depend in a material degree upon the favourable state of the weather during the time of laying the eggs, as well as the week or ten days subsequent to hatching; which is almost invariably during the second and third week of June.

When the months of May and June are dry, partridges are in general exceedingly numerous, and proportionally strong upon wing by the commencement of the shooting season; but when heavy and dreadful rains fall (as they frequently do during the hay-harvest), the destruction is incredible. Such severe and continued rains not only chill the eggs during incubation, but drown numbers of the young almost so soon as they are out of their shells. Wet seasons are also destructive to ants, upon the eggs of which, young partridges as well as pheasants principally subsist.

Partridges so soon as the corn is cut down, and they are deprived of the shelter under which they were bred, display a most wonderful timidity and dread of danger; to which the whole covey are induced by the unceasing and inexpressible anxiety of the hen for the safety of her young. Thus incessantly alive to perpetual fear, they change their situation repeatedly in the course of the day; as well to insure safety from probable danger as to supply the calls of nature. In the first part of the shooting season, while the wheat and barley stubbles are fresh, and not rendered too bare, or too much beaten by cattle, they are to be found in one or the other, both late at night and early in the morning: after feeding in which (if not disturbed by the approach of those in pursuit of them), they rise gently in a cluster by signal from the hen, and glide or skim along with as little flutter as possible to the nearest promised protection of turnips, standing clover, rushy moors, or low grassy coverts, in some of which during the day they are mostly to be found, and not unfrequently near a watery ditch, or running stream about noon; as it is at this time and in general once a day they take this part of their sustenance: but as there are many hilly countries in which water is but very partially to be found, it is naturally to conclude, their wants in this respect may be amply supplied by the morning dew-drops, with which vegetation at all times so plentifully abounds.

To those who are total strangers to the sport as well as the almost incredible annual destruction of these inoffensive branches of the feathered creation (the beautiful variegations of whose plumage, and the nutritive property of whose flesh have rendered them worthy legislative protection), it becomes directly applicable to be informed, they begin to pair off from the fragmental remains of covies, about the third and last weeks in February, and the two first in March; they make their nests upon the ground, chiefly in the thick bottom of hedges and in the hedge-rows, though they are frequently found in fields of clover, and sometimes (but rarely) in standing corn. The hen usually deposits from fifteen to twenty eggs, and produces mostly a bird from every egg she lays; which, as before observed, is late in the month of June.

The young in the aggregate are sportingly termed covies, and if the season is kind and favourable are able to run and follow the hen almost as soon as they are hatched. Although the chances of their premature destruction are numerous, by vermin, torrents of rain and other vicissitudes, yet from six to eight and nine brace are in general brought up to fly with the old ones, unless in some

of

of those instances where the whole covey is accidentally destroyed. Partridges are included in every act of parliament for the preservation of game; and the penalty for killing a partridge by any person unqualified by law so to do is five pounds. And by a latter act, if such unqualified person kills (or goes in pursuit of with intent to kill) either partridge or any other species of game, without having taken out a certificate from the clerk of the peace for the county in which he resides, or where he sports, he is then liable to a farther penalty of twenty pounds, making a forfeiture of twenty-five pounds for the double transgression.

Partridges in their infant state, accompany the hen in search of food, obey the cluck of the mother and are protected by the clutch of her wings in the same manner as any domestic fowl. The hen is so instinctively attached to her young, that she will oppose every difficulty, encounter every danger, and face death in every form to insure their safety; although timid to stupidity, and at times rendered almost insensible by her own fears, yet upon other occasions great sagacity is observable by her endeavours to preserve her offspring. When they are very young and unable to save themselves by flight, and in all cases of danger, particularly when approached by that fatal enemy the dog, the hen will rise and lead him on by short flights, or rather hoverings of thirty or forty yards but just above the ground, till having induced him to follow a sufficient distance from the seat of all her fears, she takes a long and more circuitous route at each future exertion, till finding she has completely baffled her pursuer, another longer and stronger effort returns to her young in safety.

Whenever a covey is unavoidably separated by the approach of danger, and different branches are again pursued, and repeatedly disturbed, so as to become divided individually and to a very considerable distance, nature has been benign in her assistance; for by the inherent property of calling (which they possess in so peculiar a degree) they insure a very expeditious recovery of each other after a most distant separation. The imitation of this call has been brought to great perfection by that infinity of nocturnal depredators denominated poachers, who availing themselves of the simplicity of these birds, too successfully allure them to their destruction.

To the contemplative sportsman and ruminative observer, the supplies of game from whence the incredible havoc of every year is derived has always been

been matter of serious admiration, which can only cease by a knowledge of their prolific powers of propagation; of this there are such infinite and authentic proofs upon record as would bring home conviction to the most stoical incredulity. In preference to a variety of more remote and distant facts which might be introduced, a few remarks from the second volume of Mr. Daniel's "Rural Sports," lately published, are entitled to attention, who informs us, that—

"Mr. Coke (who is perhaps the very best shot in England), the 7th of October, 1799, upon his manor at Warham, and within a mile's circumference, bagged forty braces of partridges in eight hours at ninety-three shots, and every bird was killed singly; the day before on the same spot, he killed twenty-two brace and a half in three hours. In 1799, when he made his annual visit to Castle Acre, the party killed only 409 head of game, which was deemed but indifferent sport. In 1801 Mr. Coke was more successful, having killed in five days, seven hundred and twenty-six partridges; surely the number of discharges must deafen the operator, putting the destruction out of the question, and Mr. Coke is so capital a marksman, that as he inflicts death whenever he pulls the trigger, he should in mercy forbear such terrible examples of his skill."

He reports also, that upon Mr. Colquhoun's manor at Writham in Norfolk, the late Duke of Bedford, and six other gentlemen in 1796, killed 40 brace of cock-pheasants, and twenty brace of hares, besides partridges, in one day; and at Houghton in the same county, the Duke of Bedford and seven others killed in the same space 165 hares, 42 pheasants, 5 rabbits, a couple of woodcocks, and a brace of partridges; and this was done although the woods had been beat five times before during the season.

That some tolerable idea may be formed of the annual supply for so constant and incredible a destruction, it is upon record that in 1793, on a farm belonging to Mr. Pratt, near Terling in Essex, a partridge's nest was found in a fallow field containing thirty-three eggs; of these twenty-three were hatched, and the whole went off with the hen; of the remaining eggs, four more had live birds in them. The number of eggs was ascertained before hatching, to decide a bet laid by a person who refused to credit the assertion that such nest had been found. In 1798 a nest was found at Elborough, in Somersetshire, with twenty-eight eggs, and in June, 1801, at Mr. Clarke's, Welton Place, Nottinghamshire,

a nest

nest containing thirty-three eggs was found in one of the plantations. Thus then, in manors well stocked and carefully preserved, the increase of a single season (upon even a moderate district) may be readily conceived, and the annual consumption as clearly accounted for.

In addition to the great infinity of game legally destroyed by that part of the sporting world who are properly qualified; the number of every species secured by those nocturnal depredators denominated poachers, so plentifully besprinkled over every part of the kingdom exceed conception. There seem to have been for time immemorial, opposite opinions supported respecting the policy and prudence of what are termed "the game laws;" the interest of one party being incessantly considered in direct opposition to the other. This perpetual war is supported upon the basis of envy by the lower classes of rustic society, who having ever looked upon every act of the legislature respecting the preservation of game with the jaundiced eye of discontent are eternally engaged in devising plans to counteract and render them ineffectual. Thus the cunning of one is constantly opposed to the power of the other, and time alone, the great regulator of events, will be enabled to ascertain the victory.

Amidst such contrariety of opinions, the eye of impartiality naturally explores every literary region, every latitude of information, to discover the equity of such laws when originally formed, and the necessity for supporting them now they are sanctioned and confirmed by the judicious deliberations of the representatives of the people. It is boldly asserted by a recent writer (who may probably delight more in sound than sense), that "a person having no land, and who chooses to keep his property in money, has no more right to a hare or partridge, than he has to the sheep or goose from him who has chosen to vest his property in land." In the hasty zeal of this writer to extol and exalt the landed interest above its proper criterion in the scale of wealth, it is probable he had totally forgotten (if he ever knew) that great national depository of immensity called the Bank of England; the millions eternally in motion through the medium of commerce; as well as the infinite annual emoluments arising to individuals (resident in this country) from East and West-India possessions to an extent of riches beyond common conception.

However

However wisely such laws may have been framed for the safe and salutary services of society, and however desirable it may be they should be rigidly enforced and implicitly obeyed; yet it cannot upon the most superficial consideration be conceived, that every individual of the most opulent stock-holders, who loyally placing an implicit reliance upon the good faith and stability of government assist it with their wealth, and embark the whole of their property to support it (in various instances from ten to forty, fifty, or a hundred thousand pounds each) does not feel himself as much affected with the appetite and propensities of a gentleman, as he whose forefathers have fortunately left him a hundred pounds a year in land.

It is not likely, nor can it be rationally expected, that any man possessing an immensity of personal property (calculated to afford him every luxury of life) will feel more inclined to sacrifice at the shrine of self-denial than his neighbour; or that he will neglect to avail himself of all the comforts and advantages to be derived from his money, that the other does from his land: under which candid consideration it is fair to presume, that so long as there shall continue a natural tendency to good living and the delicacies which providence has so plentifully bestowed; so long as the monied thousands of the metropolis will not give up an opinion that they are entitled to become partakers of "the good things of this life;" so long as game shall be bred and human degeneracy be found in the lower classes of the community; so long will poaching continue in opposition to every means that the utmost extent of human wisdom can suggest for its extirpation.

It is an axiom of long standing, that every man has a right to offer a public opinion upon a public transaction; availing himself of this privilege, another writer upon the same subject has observed "that in a highly cultivated, well-peopled country, no animal can properly be considered as wild; all are supported by the property and labour of those who cultivate the soil. Some from their peculiar instincts are, indeed, less capable than others of being appropriated, and therefore, like lands uninclosed, are held as a joint property. But he who has no land, and consequently contributes nothing to their maintenance is no more entitled to any use of them than the inhabitant of one parish is to a right of commonage on the waste lands of another.

Without

Without presuming to offer an opinion, or to obtrude a single line in animadversion upon the remarks of those who have written upon the political and equitable basis of these laws (which every good subject will probably admit ought to be obeyed), it must be universally known, and it is annually confirmed, that the great body of poachers, and that still greater infinity, their abettors, are of a direct and determined opposite opinion. However just, proper, necessary and political such restrictions may have been in their formation, and laudable in their intentional effect; experience has afforded reason to believe but little reliance can be placed upon any expectation of a reduction in the number of poachers, sanctioned, encouraged, and supported as they are by thousands of the most opulent in the metropolis, as well as by the middle classes in every city, town, and village from one extremity of the island to the other.

If there are any of the sporting world, or in fact any part of the subjects of this realm so inexperienced, as to suppose any one species of game is difficult to be obtained for money, he must be deplorably deficient in a knowledge of the common occurrences of this country; and will probably be much surprised to be informed, that the art and profession of poaching is systematically continued, and carried on almost as public as the "noon-day sun, air, earth or water" during the season; nor need "a ghost from the grave" be wanting to convince the most incredulous, that not one of the numerous, commercial, and opulent body in the city, nor any minor epicure in the suburbs sits down without game at his table whenever he chooses to arrange it so in his bill of fare. It is not the province of a steward, butler, or house-keeper to arraign the taste, or restrain the will of their employer, particularly when almost every poulterer, waiter, and book-keeper of the different coach and waggon inns, can give ample information where game of any kind can be procured with one hand, provided money is carried in the other.

So long as a breach of the law is thus encouraged and rewarded with impunity by superiors, no well-founded hope of reformation can with consistency be entertained; it is under the original embarkation as poachers, that numbers of rustics become the petty thieves of almost every rural district, and whose dexterity by practice and experience sets at defiance the most precautionary prudence. Accustomed in the nocturnal destruction of game to the secrecy of fraud, and committing their depredations amidst the silence of night, those horrors and that consequent dread which frequently deters from the commission of great

offences

offences gradually lose their effect. Solitude and darkness, which have where-withal to appal the human mind in its first deviation from the paths of rectitude, are divested of their terrors in those pilfering pursuits; and the consequence has been observed by those who in the justice-seat of magistrates, are officially called to sit in judgment on the delinquency of public offenders, that to this initiation may frequently be ascribed their gradual progress to subsequent enormities.

Whenever guilt by repetition becomes familiar to the mind, it is not within the principle or power of the illiterate and uneducated to restrain its excesses; they cannot summon resolution and self-denial to arrest the career of iniquity, nor can they chalk out the line of consistency beyond which they will not pass. Confining their first nocturnal adventures to netting of partridges and snaring of hares, they become habitually inured to depredation, and whenever they encounter an adverse stroke of fortune (obtaining less booty than usual or expected), they are then tempted to make up the deficiency by such petty plunder as falls in their way, and thus lay the foundation of constantly increasing villainy, which too often terminates in a loss of their lives.

Adventurers of this description feeling no compunction in the earlier stages of deception and guilt, carelessly proceed to a state of the most abandoned degeneracy. Game is a species of property, the claim of their superiors to which they will never admit, and upon this principle it is they vindicate their lawless proceedings; pretending they commit no moral injustice in the various stratagems by which they obtain it and convert it to their own pecuniary purposes. They are determined to reject every claim but the claim of universality, and consequently proceed to a dauntless pursuit and possession of what they affect to believe they are equally entitled to; and this predominant opinion exultingly communicated from one to another, tends more to extend the vice than reprove the crime. The remorse of conscience being but feeble in the outset, derives no strength from the practice, and the wretched depredators once initiated, encourage each other by degrees to trample more and more upon laws, a due observance of and obedience to which, would have evidently tended to their own preservation.

It is natural to conceive, nothing can tend more to prove the equity and excellence of laws than an implicit obedience to the limits, restraints, and prohibitions

bitions they contain; how far the repeated acts of different legislatures, during various and successive reigns, for the increase and preservation of the game have proved efficacious and infallible, the constantly accumulating number of devotees to nocturnal depredation, and their supporters (the open and exulting purchasers of game) can best explain. To those most observant, it seems that these laws, after all the refinement of centuries, all the investigation and deliberation of different legislatures, and all the advantages derived from the sage opinions of the law, are certainly less respected, and proportionally less effectual than any other to be found in the statute-books of this realm. Whether it is that they are little read and less understood, less palatable to the lower classes interested in their effect, or but feebly and leniently executed, is not perhaps known, or to be publicly ascertained; but certain it is, no one act or acts ever received so little assistance in being carried into substantial effect for want of informers, those very indispensible agents to bring home conviction to the individuals concerned, without whom every endeavour to render such laws effectual must prove abortive.

Notwithstanding the universally admitted unanimous, prudent, and persevering exertions of the people in defence of the dignity of the crown, the rights of the church, and the support of the constitution; yet in the exception of these laws, it is matter of ruminative admiration, that in the remotest corners of the kingdom, from one extremity to the other, one year to another still succeeds, with but few instances of any one necessitous dependent being found to come forward, under the art of persuasion, the influence of power, the fear of threats, or hope of reward in the character of an informer, which some instinctive or inexplicable sense of honor has for time immemorial prompted almost every Briton to consider an indelible badge of disgrace; and to this circumstance alone may be justly attributed the slender effect of the game-laws upon the two orders of society, who consider themselves either above or below their restrictions, and continue eternally to condemn the principle, and contemptuously encounter their force in opposition to all the projected penalties, pains, and persecutions.

Thus then it evidently appears, that for half a century past the spirit of antipathy and the practice of poaching have increased with the lower classes, in proportion to the additional restraints thought necessary by the higher; and that

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the invincible obstinacy, and determined depravity of the former (with the pecuniary encouragement they receive) will continue the contest to the end of time. The last act of the present reign, by which any person (qualified or unqualified) may obtain an annual certificate upon payment of three guineas to the clerk of the peace for the county in which he resides, seems to have proved not only a most judicious and approved voluntary subscription to the exigencies of the state, but to have very considerably reduced the number of unqualified gunners who held the previous existing laws in slender estimation; upon the plea that a penalty of five pounds was too trifling to excite a sensation of fear, more particularly when there never need have been entertained the least dread of an information.

Of this confidence in the congenial philanthropy of the people, and the lenity of the laws, more striking proofs cannot be adduced, than a few confirmed facts abstracted from the sporting adventures of the writer in the early part of his life; whose juvenile volatility and inexperience must (with those cynically rigid) apologize for his indiscretions; if so, they should be considered in the course of recital.

As it is by no means a common practice with the younger branches of society, to explore the dull and abstruse pages of legislative disquisition, by which the inclination is to be thwarted and the enjoyment of pleasure restrained; so it will be thought the less extraordinary, that the writer, more than thirty years since, at his first embarkation as a sportsman, should have paid but little or no attention to laws calculated to demonstrate and explain, the very qualifications he did not, nor was ever likely to possess, and to prevent him the gratification of pleasures he was determined to pursue. Considering at that particular period of life, that true happiness could only consist in an unrestrained pursuit of inclination, and finding himself (like Timothy Sharp in the Lying Valet) replete "with all the whoreson-appetites of a gentleman," he was determined to support the character to the utmost extent of his ability; in doing which he was well aware, if he transgressed the laws, he must become amenable and abide the consequences. Too volatile in disposition, too warm in constitution, too alert in spirit, and too active in bodily exertion to be "tied and bound down with the chains" of frigid reasoning and prudent moralizing deliberation, he feelingly found himself inadequate to the task of self-denial, and boldly plunged into the

vortex

vortex of the field, at the penal peril of his pocket, or the deprivation of liberty; in the gratification of passions he had not firmness sufficient to resist and subdue.

Having considered the sports of the field amongst the predominant pleasures of life, he became initiated and personally experienced at an earlier age than many of the sporting world make even their embarkation; and it is no small gratification of his ambition, that he can at this moment, make a retrospective exulting review of his having, for full thirty years, enjoyed every honourable pleasure of the field; killed game in most of the counties in England, as well as in Scotland and Ireland; without possessing a single acre of land, or any other qualification whatever, beyond an excellent gun, a brace of beautiful pointers, and the manners of a gentleman. These only have ever insured him a plenty of sport (and no small proportion of game) without having once encountered the inconvenience of information, penalty, or litigation in either one country or another; but as there are few adventurers without variegations, so it may not prove either inapplicable or unentertaining to introduce the recital of facts which then somewhat damped, though by no means retarded, the pursuit of what he at that time considered the most sublime happiness of human existence.

Considering a penalty of five pounds matter of very insignificant import when put in competition with so rich a repast as the pursuit of game (upon which the successive legislatures had stamped so great a value), he embarked under the age of twenty with all the energy, taste, and fervor of a most determined devotee. Having, from the sale of a reversionary interest in a few country cottages, raised the small sum of two hundred pounds, the necessary requisites for the field were soon obtained; and a rural tour determined on with a due consideration to the excellence of the sport he so anxiously wished to engage in, but very little reflection upon the consequences which might probably ensue.

His first adventure in the newly acquired character of sportsman was marked with a singularity seldom equalled, probably never exceeded by any sporting anecdote yet upon record. Being about this period (1771) in possession of an invitation from an old schoolfellow in the neighbourhood of Maidenhead Thicket, in Berkshire, who though not of age, was with his mother in joint possession

possession of a freehold estate (upon which they resided) of near three hundred a year; he availed himself of the offer; and with a companion of the medical fraternity reached the spot of hope and expectation on the evening of the first day of the shooting season. Instead of mirth, jollity, and exhilaration, as was naturally expected, nothing presented itself in the family but mortification, disappointment, and tribulation.

Upon investigating the cause of this apparent misery, it appeared that the young friend of the writer had been enjoying the sport of the day, and had taken with him his bailiff to mark, and occasionally to carry his gun; that on their return with three brace of birds, they were met by the lord of an adjoining manor, who is still living, and a king's counsel then resident in that neighbourhood, since dead; who considering themselves cloathed with the construction of the law, carried it into immediate execution by demanding both the birds and the gun, with which trophies of victory on one side, and unconditional submission on the other, they marched off in triumph, denouncing farther vengeance upon the parties if they should be found again offending against the laws in a similar manner.

During the evening, the gun was returned by the game-keeper of the lord of the manor who had taken it away, and the result of the conversation was a palpable fear on every side (except the writer) to renew the sport on the following morning. Personal pusillanimity, subservience to power, or servility to greatness, constituting no part of his disposition, or practice, he was determined to pursue his pleasures, and that even under the sanction of the very law by which it should seem he was to be restrained. Successive legislatures had fixed the precise sum of five pounds upon every partridge, and he had philosophically made up his mind to kill (according to act of parliament), at that stated price, as often as he should be informed against, at least so long as the produce of the reversionary interest in the cottages might permit it to last.

This plan duly deliberated upon, in opposition to every expostulation was to be carried into execution in the morning; but in which none could be prevailed upon to acquiesce except the writer and his medical friend Mr. B. who was at that time a pupil in St. Bartholomew's hospital, and has since for many years been, and still is a most respectable practitioner in one of the principal assize-towns in the county. The minor yeoman being no more than twenty years of

age) and his bailiff attended as markers or companions; but were too severely wounded by the occurrences of the preceding day, and too much in awe of magisterial authority and dictation to be prevailed upon to carry a gun.

Thus fully equipped, the party sallied forth, and having pursued the sport for more than three hours, with but little success, in consequence of the singular scarcity of birds, they were just approaching the door of a relative, to take some refreshment, when Mr. Counsellor A——r, with a servant and four brace of pointers was observed at a distance, and in seeming pursuit. An interview so desirable and so anxiously anticipated by the writer, was not to be declined on his part, and he instantly placed himself against the garden-gate of entrance to the habitation, laying in sight upon his left thigh the fowling-net (containing the only brace of birds which had been killed during the morning), to wait the event.

This was barely adjusted when the learned serjeant coming up, with a truly professional effrontery, thus addressed the writer with all the fashionable freedom of Westminster-Hall:—"Pray, Sir, what's your name?" To which the "retort direct" was instantly echoed, and issue joined: "Pray, Sir, what's your name?" was the reply—"My name, Sir, is exceedingly well known in this neighbourhood, and if you do not chuse to let me know yours, I shall be under the necessity of taking you before a magistrate."—"I beg to be considered truly thankful, Sir, for the honour you intend me; but Mr. Wilkes having buried in oblivion the full force of general warrants, a man can no more be taken up by the colour of his coat, or the cut of his countenance.

The writer, upon this retiring within the house, and the facetious professor of cross-examination finding himself most mortifyingly foiled at his own weapon, had recourse by beckon to Mr. B. soliciting most politely from him the name of his companion, which B. declining to communicate, he then requested the name and residence of B. who immediately answered, "he was the son of Mr. Alderman B. of Reading, in the same county, and qualified in right of his father." Succeeding thus far, he begged to speak once more to the gentleman who seemed so much offended at his former application; upon the approach of the writer, the counsellor assumed a degree of more accommodating mildness, and expressed some concern at having been too precipitate in his first enquiry; but the game being thin in the neighbourhood, and still more reduced by the visits of strangers, "he would esteem it a particular favour if the party

Q 2 would

would oblige him with his name."—" D——e, Sir!"—" Not the son of the baron?"—" Yes, Sir, at your service."—" I hope the baron and family are well?"—Perfectly so, I thank you, Sir."—" Well, Mr. D——e," replied the learned orator, " let me entreat you to be merciful during your stay with us, remembering you have a much greater plenty of game in your county than we in ours."

This admonition terminated the interview, and convinced the writer, no obstruction to his sporting progress need be encountered for want of a name, when a new one might be extemporaneously coined upon any necessary occasion. Thus shielded, he continued to enjoy the sport in different counties to the utmost extent of the most energetic expectation, without a single interruption; till being at Ipswich, in Suffolk, and making enquiry which way he could go for a day's shooting without giving offence, he was directed " to go entirely over the race-course, and turn on the right hand." To this information not having been sufficiently attentive, he went only upon (instead of over) the race-course, and turning too soon upon the right-hand, went directly into the nursery of Mr. B—, a gentleman of extensive landed property in that neighbourhood, who was exceedingly anxious for the preservation of game.

Into this sublunary elysium to a sportsman, he had been but newly entered when he found plenty of employment for his gun; point and shot succeeded each other with so much rapidity, that three brace of birds were presently brought to bag; during which the clamorous signals and reproaches from two or three rustics who were carting and carrying backward seed-clover, suggested an idea that he was wrong, and mischief might ensue. Fully fraught with this probability, he made an expeditious retreat by the way of a small covert at no great distance; in passing through which a hen-pheasant sprung from under his feet, when fear, prudence, and sporting humanity equally enjoined forbearance. The bird was no sooner lost to the eye, than a few domestic fowls were seen to cross a glade, followed by a cock-pheasant in eager pursuit of the hens; crossing the spot, the pointers beginning to draw, the bird was soon upon wing, and self-denial being no longer practicable, the fatal shot brought him almost as instantaneously to the ground.

The three brace of birds previously killed having nearly filled the net, it was unavoidably necessary to dislodge a part to make room for the full-grown cock-

pheasant

pheasant just brought to hand; in the act of kneeling to make room for one, by a removal of part of the other (and this in a most awful, still, and sequestered wood), a gentle tap or two upon the shoulder of the writer was not productive of the most pleasing sensation; little doubt can be entertained but the shock, acting with a degree of electric vibration, occasioned

> " Each particular hair to stand on end
> " Like quills upon the fretful porcupine;"

particularly when accompanied with the very emphatic exclamation of " who are you?—A question at that moment not to be so readily answered. Upon a sort of half-recovery from the palpitation, the writer hastily (and not without a considerable portion of alarm) enquired from the lad, as it proved to be, " why he asked?" from whom he received the following answer: " that the writer was got into the heart of Mr. B—e's game-preserve, where even his uncle never shot off a gun."—" Indeed! why who is your uncle?"—" The game-keeper."—" The devil he is! and where is he?"—In bed with a fever here in this cottage just the other side of the copse-fence; and hearing a gun fired he sent me to see who it was, and to enquire your name."—" Oh he did! aye, that's very right—my name—oh aye—very true—(there, there's a shilling for you)—you may tell him my name is Johnson—Captain Johnson;" with which information the lad withdrew, and the newly ycleped-captain made a most expeditious exit.

The agitated aggressor had not proceeded far from the unfortunate spot, when he was overtaken by his new, but unsolicited acquaintance; who returned the shilling by order of his uncle, desiring him to enquire also what Captain Johnson it was, and where he was to be found. To which the answer most readily occurring, was the coffee-room of the White Horse inn, at Ipswich; where the adventurous sportsman had never taken either tea or coffee during his existence. Considering it, however, a matter of prudence to make a hasty departure from so inquisitive a neighbourhood, he left it by four o'clock the following morning, and had some weeks afterwards put into his possession, in a different county, a printed handbill, with a handsome reward offered for any information that should lead to a discovery of Capt. Johnson and the mysterious transaction.

To the weak, timid, or pusillanimous, these rebuffs would have been considered omens of portentous importance, and might, probably, have prevented a farther perseverance in the sport; not so with the present reporter of his own adventures, whose propensities were too inherent and predominant to be suppressed or subdued by considerations of so little magnitude; he was previously determined to persevere in the pursuit of pleasure upon which a price had been fixed by legislative authority, that he well knew he must have paid if legally exacted. No such thing, however, occurred during the long course of years before-mentioned; nor did he ever meet with an interruption (in addition to the two already introduced) to the very moment of long since relinquishing both dogs and gun, after as pleasing an enjoyment of sport and health, as can possibly have fallen to the lot of any cotemporary in the imperial dominions; which may be considered one extensive proof of the very moderate spirit of the game-laws and the lenity of their execution.

P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx. J. Scott Sculp.

MASTIFF.

MASTIFF.

THE dog passing under this denomination is said, by Buffon, "to be a mongrel generated between the Irish greyhound and the bull dog, but much larger, and more resembling the latter than the former." This, however, must be admitted mere matter of suggestion, to which there is no palpable proof; the mastiff, in its original and uncontaminated state, being a more dignified, stately, and attracting object than either of the other two, a doubt naturally arises whether the mastiff may not with a greater probability of truth be considered a distinct race peculiar to the country in which we live; particularly when it is upon record, that the mastiffs of Great Britain were noted for their innate courage and instinctive ferocity so far back as the time of the Roman emperors, by whom an officer was appointed whose sole business it was to breed, select, and send from hence, such as promised, by size and strength, to become adequate to the combats of the amphitheatre.

The mastiff, from its commanding aspect and terrific appearance to strangers, is admirably calculated for, and principally appropriated to the protection of large and extensive premises, containing property of value, which is with implicit confidence submitted to his care. He is so forcibly impressed with the magnitude of the charge, that the loss of life only can deprive him of the trust reposed in him; and notwithstanding his figure is naturally calculated to excite fear, and keep the ill-intentioned at a distance, he is (to those who are constantly about him) as mild in his manners, as solicitous of attention, and as faithfully grateful for favors as the most diminutive of the species. There is one particularity appertaining to this kind of dog, which is, that their ferocity is always to be increased or diminished, by the degree of restraint in which they are preserved; those constantly kept upon the chain are much more dangerous to approach than those in a state of liberty, from whence it evidently appears, that

that what may be considered a friendly kindness on one side, is always productive of an unsullied confidence on the other.

The mastiff is remarkable for a peculiar warmth in his attachments and an equal inveteracy in his dislike; once intentionally irritated, insulted, or ill-used, it is not easily obliterated from memory, nor can a reconciliation be speedily obtained. Conscious of his own strength, substance, and authority, he seems less constitutionally inclined to descend to those officious fawnings so inseparable from dogs of an inferior description; giving proof by his constant assiduity in the protection of property, that his destination is to matters of more significant importance. Replete with strong intellectual sagacity, he aptly receives the principles of such inculcation as may be necessary, and displays a most wonderful capacity in bringing them into execution. It is the most predominant trait of his ambition to be employed, and once appointed to office, no probability arises of the appointments being disgraced; in timber-yards, coal-wharfs, large yards, and widely extended manufactories, their utility exceeds conception. Whatever is submitted to his superintendance and protection may be considered safe from depredation.

In such places as those just described, where the premises are surrounded by walls, or fences intended for the exclusion of strangers, and where a dog of this description is kept as a nocturnal security, he is generally confined during the day, and becomes the more vigilantly vicious upon the approach of night; at the hour of locking the gates, or securing the principal seat of access, and letting him loose, he becomes instantly conscious of his own importance, and takes upon him the task of minute inspection to the remotest corner of the premises (whatever may be their extent) 'till satisfied they are in a state of perfect safety. Convinced of this, it is with the most indefatigable exertion he is perpetually engaged in his endeavours to keep them so; his marchings and counter-marchings are nearly as uniform as the watchman of the night, and his signal much more vociferous and decisive upon the least just cause of alarm; for as it is the peculiar practice of the bull dog to bite before he barks, so it is an almost invariable rule with the mastiff to bark before he bites.

The breed having been very materially reduced by various intermixtures and experimental crosses, the genuine old English uncontaminated mastiff is rarely to be seen; although we have them of all sizes and colours under that denomination

nation, yet the pure and unmixed progeny is very difficult to be obtained. In this state the true mastiff is much superior in height, size, bone, and strength, to the bull dog; the ears more pendulous; the lips large, loose, and prominent; the countenance commanding; and the eyes fiercely expressive, constituting in the aggregate an object calculated to excite awe and insure respect; to which if the bark be added in a state of exasperation, the degree of majestic power and strength may be much more forcibly conceived than described.

That some adequate idea may be formed of the instinctive fortitude and courageous perseverance of this particular race, it is an observation extracted from ancient records, that three of this breed were considered a match for a bear, and four for a lion. In Stow's Annals is an account of an engagement between three mastiffs and a lion in the presence of King James the First.

" One of the dogs being turned into the den was soon disabled by the lion, who took it by the neck and dragged it about without its retaining the least power of resistance; at this moment another dog was let loose, which he very soon served in the same manner: but the third being turned into the den, instantly seized the lion by the lip, and so held him for a considerable time, 'till being severely torn by his claws, the dog was obliged to quit his hold, but the lion being greatly exhausted in the conflict refused to renew the engagement, and taking a sudden leap over the dogs fled into the interior part of his den. Two of the dogs soon died of the wounds they had received; the last survived, and was taken great care of by the king's son; who said, " that he who had fought with the king of beasts, should never after be opposed to any animal of an inferior description."

Of the infinite sagacity of almost every race of the canine species there are instances innumerable; but Bewick, in his History of Quadrupeds, introduces the following anecdote to shew, that the mastiff conscious of its superior strength, knows how to chastise the impertinence of an inferior:—" A large dog of this kind, belonging to the late M. Ridley, Esq. of Heaton, near Newcastle, being frequently molested by a mongrel, and teazed by its continual barking, at last took it up in his mouth by the back, and with great composure dropped it over the quay into the river, without doing any farther injury to an enemy so much his inferior." In addition to this the following is literally copied from a periodical publication of much celebrity:—

 " A French

"A French officer, more remarkable for his birth and spirit than his riches, had served the Venetian republic with great valour and fidelity for some years, but had not met with preferment by any means adequate to his merits. One day he waited on an 'Illustrissimo' whom he had repeatedly solicited in vain, but on whose friendship he had still some reliance. The reception he met with was cool and truly mortifying; the noble turned his back on the necessitous veteran and left him to find his way to the street, through a suit of apartments magnificently furnished. He passed them in a state of philosophic rumination, 'till casting his eyes on a sumptuous sideboard, where stood on a damask cloth, in preparation for a shewy entertainment, an invaluable collection of Venice glass, formed and polished to the highest degree of perfection; he took hold of the corner of the linen, and turning to a faithful English mastiff who always accompanied him, said to the animal, in a seeming absence of mind, "There, my poor old friend! you see how these scoundrels enjoy themselves, and yet how we are treated!" The poor dog looked up in his master's face, wagging his tail as if he understood him. The master walked on, but the mastiff slackening his pace, laid hold of the damask cloth with his teeth, and at one hearty pull brought all the sideboard in shivers to the ground, thereby depriving the insolent noble of his favourite exhibition of sublunary splendour."

Of the dreadful havoc made by dogs of this description, when disposed to mischief and depredation, some idea may be formed by a recital of the exploits of a true-bred mastiff, the property of Mr. Snell, a gentleman of independent fortune in Gloucestershire. This dog continued the constant and unsuspected guardian of his master's premises for many years, when at length he took to leaving home at night, although he had a wall to leap of full eight feet high. Sheep were frequently found killed in different parts of the country, but as he was always at home at day-break he escaped suspicion; 'till one moonlight night he was discovered standing in a field of farmer Wood's, near the park of his master, surrounded by wounded and slaughtered sheep and lambs, amounting to the incredible number of sixty-three, every one bitten in the throat, and one of them with the shoulder eaten. Thus detected in the fact, Mr. Snell voluntarily paid all the damage before it could be demanded; and after having had a painting taken of the dog in remembrance of so singular a transaction, he made a compliment of him to a Mr. Wilcox, mercer, of Gloucester, whose servant having him with him, on a Sunday's walk to Cheltenham, he

he seized a woman by the leg upon the road, and tore it so severely that it was judged expedient to take away his life.

Of this tendency to mischief, when in a wild and unrestrained state, more recent and well-authenticated instances may be adduced. In the month of December, 1784, a smuggling vessel having made a speculative adventure near Boomer, on the coast of Northumberland; in the sudden and unexpected haste of their departure, left unintentionally a dog of this description behind. Finding himself thus unfortunately abandoned in a spot to which he was a total stranger, and most probably afraid to approach the habitation of those upon whom he must rely for the good or ill usage he might be destined to receive; he began to destroy sheep for his subsistance in the first instance, which propensity thus once indulged, continued to increase, 'till he worried such numbers that he became a terror to the farmers for twenty miles round. In this newly-assumed vocation he became so exceedingly singular and expert, that when he caught a sheep, he bit a hole in its right side, and when he had indulged in a repast upon the fat about the kidnies, he left it as no farther worthy his attention. Several of them were found in this state by the shepherds, some of them alive, who afterwards recovered.

In consequence of so serious and incessant a devastation every means were employed for his destruction; parties of injured rustics were formed for the promotion of a general good, he was repeatedly pursued with hounds, greyhounds, and a complete mass of the people on horse and foot; but when any of the leading dogs came up with him, he lay fawningly down upon his back, as if imploring mercy from his pursuers, and in that position they never hurt him: he therefore continued in a state of ease and rest, till his more inveterate foes came within sight or hearing, when he made moderately off without being followed by the hounds, till they were again excited by the multitude to renew the pursuit, which always terminated in the same unsuccessful way, and he as constantly escaped. In this way he was one day pursued from Howick to upwards of thirty miles distance, but returned thither and killed sheep the following evening, evidently demonstrating sagacity, resentment, and revenge. After various fruitless pursuits, his most constant residence was ascertained to be at the extreme summit of a rock, known by the name of Heugh Hill, near Howick, where he had an unobstructed view of the four distinct roads which approached it, and there he was by stratagem way-laid and shot in the month of March, 1785.

In a sporting periodical publication, is recorded a very particular account of another wild dog, who had committed similar depredations among the sheep near Wooler, in the same county; which dog was on the 6th of June, 1799, advertized to be hunted on the Wednesday following by three packs of hounds who were to meet at different places; the aid of men and fire-arms were also requested, with a promised reward of twenty guineas to the person who actually deprived him of existence. An immense concourse of people assembled at the time appointed, but the chase was unsuccessful, for he eluded all the energetic vigilance of his pursuers amidst the Cheviot Hills, and returning in the evening, worried an ewe and lamb in the neighbourhood from whence he had been hunted in the morning.

During the whole of that summer he continued his ravages, but occasionally changed his quarters; for he infested the Fells, sixteen miles south of Carlisle, where upwards of sixty sheep fell victims to his insatiate blood-thirsty disposition. In September of that year, his place of retreat having been nearly ascertained, parties were formed, who with hounds and fire-arms were again employed against him; and after a run from Carrock Fell, which was computed to be full thirty miles, he was shot (while the hounds were in pursuit of him) by Mr. Sewel, of Wedlock, who laid in ambush in Moss Dale. In the progress of the chase which occupied six hours, he frequently headed upon the leading hounds, and wounded several so as to disable them from continuing the pursuit. Upon examination when killed, he appeared to be of the mastiff breed, with a cross of the Newfoundland, not above the middle size, wire-haired, and extremely lean.

Notwithstanding these frequent proofs of determined depredation upon the timid and unresisting part of the animal creation; instances are but rare of their making a confident and severe attack upon the human species without the most palpable provocation. In opposition, however, to the received opinion of the almost infallible fidelity and implicit obedience of these animals, and in verification of the ancient axiom that "there is no rule without an exception," it becomes directly applicable to introduce the recital of a circumstance which occurred only a few months since at Mitcham, in Surry. A butcher of that place having reared a true-bred mastiff from a puppy, became much attached to the dog, and the dog so attentively fond of him, that it invariably followed him as a spaniel, and he seldom or hardly ever stirred from home without him.

During this scene of mutual confidence the master had purchased some horse-flesh for the dog, and of which he had given him a part; but not completely satisfied with what had been allotted him, he by some means unfairly possessed himself of what was preserved, in the master's endeavour to take away which, the dog seized his arm with the most incredible ferocity, and tore away the flesh in a most dreadful manner; from thence he made a sudden transition to the throat, where he fastened himself with an inflexible obduracy beyond description, from which hold he was not dislodged till nearly strangled by a rope fixed round his neck by the neighbours for that purpose. Upon feeling the painful pressure of the cord upon his own neck, he was compelled to relinquish his infernal, malicious gripe, and so enthusiastic and extraordinary was the attachment of the master to this most unworthy favourite, that although his life was for some time in imminent danger, he would never give his consent that the dog should be destroyed. This circumstance was considered the more extraordinary, as the dog had been always remarkable for his docility and peaceable disposition; whether any sudden effect from the horse-flesh (to which he had been unaccustomed), or instantaneous impulse of passion at being deprived of so luxurious a repast, was the occasion of such a seeming temporary madness can never be ascertained, though certain it is the dog quietly returned to his previous calmness, obedience, and domestic fidelity.

Various instances might be adduced upon the subjects of constancy, zeal, gratitude, perseverance, and sagacity of dogs of every breed, size, and description; nor are there wanting proofs of a noble and innate generosity amongst dogs of superior strength in affording protection to inferiors under misfortunes. A large dog of the mastiff kind, belonging to a Mr. Hilson, of Maxwelhaugh, on the 21st of October, 1797, seeing a small dog that was following a cart from Kelso, carried by the current of the Tweed, in spite of all its efforts to bear up against the stream; after watching its motions attentively, plunged voluntarily into the river, and seizing the wearied diminutive by the neck, brought it safely to land in the presence of several distant spectators.

That too great a degree of sameness, and every appearance of repetition may be avoided, as well as to give a variegated complexion to the work, it may not be considered inapplicable, to extract from a recent work of much celebrity

"a philo-

" a philosophical account of dogs, under the supposition of a transmigration of souls;" the facetious believer, affecting to distinguish at the sight of any creature from what class of animals the soul is derived, thus describes them :—

" The souls of deceased bailiffs and common constables are in the bodies of setting dogs and pointers; the terriers are inhabited by trading justices; the blood hounds were formerly a set of informers, thief-takers, and false evidences; the spaniels were heretofore courtiers, hangers-on of administration, and hack-journal writers: all of whom preserve their primitive qualities of fawning on their feeders, licking their hands, and snarling and snapping at all who offer to offend their master. A former train of gamblers and black-legs are now embodied in that particular species denominated lurchers; bull dogs and mastiffs were once butchers and drovers; greyhounds and hounds owe their animation to country squires and fox-hunters; little whiffling, useless lap-dogs draw their existence from the quondam beau; macaronies and gentlemen of the tippy, still being the play-things of the ladies, and used for their diversion. There are also a set of sad dogs derived from attornies; and puppies who were in past times attornies clerks, shopmen to retail haberdashers, men-milliners, &c. &c. Turnspits are animated by old aldermen, who still enjoy the smell of the roast meat; that droning, snarling species stiled Dutch pugs have been fellows of colleges; and that faithful, useful tribe of shepherds' dogs were in days of yore, members of parliament who guarded the flock, and protected the sheep from wolves and thieves, although indeed, of late, some have turned sheep-biters, and worried those they ought to have defended."

P. Reinagle A.R.A. pinx. J. Scott sculp.

SHEPHERD'S DOG.

SHEPHERD'S DOG.

THE peculiar breed to which this appellation was annexed by naturalists of former celebrity, is now more familiarly known by the denomination of "sheep dog" in every rural district of the kingdom. According to the tenets of Buffon, and those who have copied his writings and re-echoed his opinions, a description of this animal should have preceded every other of the canine race, as from this precise origin they presume to affirm every other branch (of whatever kind and whatever propensity) has progressively sprung. This, however, so truly savours of hypothesis, and must to every liberal and comprehensive mind appear so replete with conjecture without any elucidating proof (except Buffon's fertile disquisition upon "the changes produced by the difference of climate"), that it does not seem entitled to any serious enquiry or investigation. It is most probable, that for a great length of time, in the earliest ages, the protection of the flock and the preservation of domestic animals were the only purposes to which the dog became appropriate; from which circumstance alone it has been erroneously supposed, that the shepherd's or sheep dog was the first, or parent stock from which every other has been produced.

This dog (of which a most admirable representation is annexed, taken from the life, and the landscape from nature) is the most timid, obedient, placid, serene, and grateful in the creation; he seems studiously conscious of the purposes for which he was formed, and is never so perceptibly gratified as when affording the most incessant proofs of his unsullied integrity. Instinctively prone to industry, he is alive to the slightest sensation of his employer, and would rather double and treble the watch-line of circumspection, than be seen indulging in a state of neglectful indolence. The breed is propagated and preserved with the greatest respect to purity in the northern parts of the kingdom,

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as well as in the highlands of Scotland, where in the extensive tracts and uncultivated wilds their services exceed description.

Constitutionally calm, patient, and philosophic, the sheep dog seems totally lost to every appearance of novelty, and insensible to every attraction beyond the protection and indefatigable preservation of the flock committed to his charge. In the most sequestered and remote spots, dreary wilds and lofty mountains almost inaccessible to man, this dog becomes an incredible and trusty substitute; for once initiated in the ground-work of his office, he soon acquires a perfect knowledge of the extent of his walk, as well as every individual of his flock; and will as regularly select his own, and disperse obtruders as the most faithful and attentive shepherd in existence. This becomes the more extraordinary to the contemplative mind when it is recollected what immense flocks are seen to cover the downy hills of Hants and Wilts as far as the eye can reach without controul; and to know that by a single signal from the shepherd, this faithful, sagacious animal, replete with energy, vigilance, and activity, will make his circle, so as to surround a flock of hundreds, and bring them within any compass that may be required.

The sheep dog is so completely absorbed in what seems the sole business and employment of his life, that he does not bestow a look, or indulge a wish beyond the constant protection of the trust reposed in him, and to execute the commands of his master; which he is always incessantly anxious to receive, and in fact is invariably looking for by every solicitous attention it is possible to conceive. Inured to all weathers, fatigue, and hunger, he is the least voracious of the species, subsists upon little, and may be justly considered truly emblematic of content. Though there is the appearance of a somniferous indolence in the exterior, it is by no means a constitutional mark of habitual inability; on the contrary, the sagacity, fidelity, and comprehensive penetration of this kind of dog is equal to any other, but that there is a thoughtful or expressive gravity annexed to this particular race, as if they were absolutely conscious of their own utility in business of importance, and the value of the stock so confidently committed to their care.

Amidst the infinity of cases so constantly issuing from the press, in which proofs almost incredible are authentically adduced of the courage, sagacity, fidelity, gratitude, and self-denial of different kinds of dogs, many are to be found

found upon record appertaining to this particular race; if they are not so numerous as of some other sorts, it may be fairly attributed to the little proportional chance they have (from their remote and sequestered employment) of displaying those powers in an equal degree with dogs more engaged in the bustle of human society.

Dr. Anderson (in his translation from Dr. Pallas) introduces the following instance of sagacity in a shepherd's dog, which he considers truly astonishing; but it will create no surprize with those who are in the least acquainted with their perfections. "The owner himself having been hanged some years ago for sheep-stealing, the following fact, among others respecting the dog, was authenticated by evidence upon his trial:—When the man intended to steal any sheep, he did not do it himself, but detached his dog to perform the business. With this view under the pretence of looking at the sheep with an intention to purchase them, he went through the flock with the dog at his feet, to whom he secretly gave a signal, so as to let him know the individuals he wanted, to the number of ten or twenty out of a flock of some hundreds; he then went away, and at a distance of several miles sent back the dog by himself in the night time, who picked out the individual sheep that had been pointed out to him, separated them from the flock, and drove them before him by himself, till overtaking his master to whom he relinquished them."

The shepherd's dog rather shuns than seems anxious to obtain the caresses of strangers, of whom he always appears to be shy and suspicious; it being remarkable, that when refreshing upon a journey with the flock, he seldom reposes but close to the feet or body of his master; who well knows if he but deposits his coat or his wallet, and gives the animal the accustomed signal when the sheep are at pasture, he may absent himself for hours, and at his return find the whole as safe and regular as if it had been under his own inspection. Although it is already observed, these dogs afford no evident external proof of quick conception, or rapid execution (except in all matters relative to the flock, to which their every faculty appertains), yet their sagacity and fidelity is found equal to every other branch of the species when necessarily brought into useful action.

In the month of February, 1795, as Mr. Boulstead's son, of Great Salkeld, in Cumberland, was attending the sheep of his father upon Great Salkeld Common, he had the misfortune to fall and break his leg. He was then at the dis-

tance of three miles from home, no chance of any persons coming in so unfrequented a place within call, and evening very fast approaching; in this dreadful dilemma, suffering extreme pain from the fracture, and lying upon the damp ground at so dreary a season of the year, his agitated spirits suggested to him the following expedient:—Folding one of his gloves in his pocket-handkerchief, he fastened it round the neck of the dog, and rather emphatically ordered him "home." These dogs, trained so admirably to orders and signals during their attendance upon the flock, are well known to be under the most minute subjection, and to execute the commands of their masters with an alacrity scarcely to be conceived.

Perfectly convinced of some inexplicable disquietude from the situation in which his master lay, he set off at a pace which soon brought him to the house, where he scratched with great violence at the door for immediate admittance. This obtained, the parents were in the utmost alarm and consternation at his appearance, but more particularly when they had examined the handkerchief and its contents. Instantly concluding beyond a doubt, that some accident had befallen their son, they did not delay a moment going in search of him; and the dog, apparently conscious the principal part of his duty was yet to be performed, anxiously led the way, and conducted the agitated parents to the spot where their son lay overwhelmed with pain, increased by the awful uncertainty of his situation. Happily this was effected just at the close of day, when being immediately removed, and the necessary assistance procured, he soon recovered, and was never more pleasingly engaged than when reciting the sagacity and gratitude of his faithful follower, who then became his constant companion.

In a publication of some celebrity is inserted (with every appearance of authenticity) the following transaction:—In a village situated between Caen and Vire, on the borders of a district called the Grove, there dwelt a peasant of a surly untoward temper, who frequently beat and abused his wife, insomuch that the neighbours were sometimes obliged, by her outcries to interpose, in order to prevent the most dreadful calamity. Being at length weary of living with one whom he had long entertained an invincible aversion to, he determined upon getting completely rid of her by taking away her life. The better to carry his newly-contrived project into execution without suspicion of the intent he had formed, he affected the most perfect and unsullied reconciliation; changed his behaviour from a system of habitual brutality, to such a scene of tenderness and

and attention, as induced a hope with both wife and friends that his reformation was confirmed.

Having for some little time accustomed himself, on the sabbath, or a holiday, to take a walk with her in the fields by way of recreation; he proposed on the evening of a summer's sultry day, her going with him to repose and cool upon the borders of a spring equally shady and retired. When seated there he pretended to be very thirsty, and laying himself down upon his belly swilled large draughts of the water, commending its sweetness, and prevailed upon her to refresh herself in like manner; she believing him, followed his example, but was no sooner in the position to obtain it, than he threw himself upon her, and endeavoured to force her head under the water with an intent to drown her; to prevent which her struggles would have been ineffectual, but for the assistance of the dog who had accidentally followed them, and perceiving the danger, he immediately flew at the husband, seized him by the throat, and saved the intended victim from impending destruction.

To reconcile the doubts of those who may be a little incredulous, it cannot prove inapplicable to come somewhat nearer home for the introduction of a well-known fact, more substantially authenticated by the names and respectability of the parties concerned, as it stands upon record to perpetuate the fidelity of a farmer's dog. It is not seven years since, that a Mr. Henry Hawkes, farmer, of Halling, in Kent, was late one evening at Maidstone Market, and returning at night with his dog, who was usually at his heels, he again stopped at Aylesford, and, as is too frequently the case upon such occasions, he drank immoderately, and left that place in a state of intoxication. Having passed the village of Newheed in safety, he took his way over Snodland Brook, in the best season of the year a very dangerous road for a drunken man; the whole face of the country was covered with a deep snow, and the frost intense; he had, however, proceeded in safety till he came to the willow walk, within half a mile of the church, when by a sudden stagger, he quitted the path, and passed over a ditch on his right hand. Not apprehensive he was going astray, he took towards the river, but having a high bank to mount, and being nearly exhausted with wandering, and the effect of the liquor, he was most fortunately prevented from rising the mound, or he certainly must have precipitated himself (as it was near high water) into the Medway.

At this moment completely overcome, he fell among the snow, in one of the coldest nights ever known; turning upon his back, he was soon overpowered with either sleep or cold, when his faithful dependant, who had closely attended to every step, scratched away the snow, so as to throw up a kind of protecting wall around his helpless master; then mounting upon the exposed body, rolled himself round, and laid down upon his master's bosom, for which his shaggy coat proved a most seasonable covering, and eventual protection during the dreadful severity of the night, the snow falling all the time. The following morning, a person who was out with his gun, in expectation of falling in with some sort of wild fowl, perceiving an appearance rather uncommon, ventured to approach the spot; upon his coming up, the dog got off the body, and after repeatedly shaking himself to get disentangled from the accumulated snow, encouraged the sportsman (a Mr. Finch), by actions of the most significant nature to come near the side of his master. Upon wiping away the icy incrustation from the face, the countenance was immediately recollected; but the frame appearing lifeless, assistance was procured to convey it to the first house upon the skirts of the village, when a pulsation being observed, every possible means were instantly adopted to promote his recovery.

In the course of a short time, the farmer was sufficiently restored to relate his own story as already recited; and, in gratitude for his miraculous escape, ordered a silver collar to be made for his friendly protector, as a perpetual remembrancer of the transaction. A gentleman of the faculty in the neighbourhood hearing of the circumstance, and finding it so well authenticated, immediately made him an offer of ten guineas for the dog, which the grateful farmer refused, exultingly adding, "that so long as he had a bone to his meat, or a crust to his bread, he would divide it with the faithful friend who had preserved his life;" and this he did in a perfect conviction that the warmth of the dog in covering the most vital part had continued the circulation and prevented a total stagnation of the blood by the frigidity of the elements.

The universal sameness of the employment in which the sheep dog is constantly engaged, affording little to enlarge on beyond his powers of sagacity, industry, fidelity, and gratitude; it may not be thought inapplicable to give the last stage of his life from the pen of popularity.

THE

THE OLD SHEPHERD's DOG.

By PETER PINDAR, Esq.

THE old shepherd's dog, like his master, was grey,
His teeth all departed and feeble his tongue;
Yet where'er Corin went he was followed by Tray,
Thus happy through life did they hobble along.

When fatigu'd on the grass the shepherd would lie,
For a nap in the sun, midst his slumbers so sweet,
His faithful companion crept constantly nigh,
Plac'd his head on his lap, or lay down at his feet.

When winter was heard on the hill and the plain,
When torrents descended, and cold was the wind;
If Corin went forth midst the tempest and rain,
Tray scorn'd to be left in the chimney behind.

At length in the straw Tray made his last bed;
For vain, against death is the stoutest endeavour,
To lick Corin's hand he rear'd up his weak head,
Then fell back, clos'd his eyes, and ah! clos'd them for ever.

Not long after Tray did the shepherd remain,
Who oft o'er his grave with true sorrow would bend;
And when dying thus feebly was heard the poor swain,
"O bury me, neighbours, beside my old friend!"

BEAGLE.

THE beagle, however it may have undergone different distinctions in proportion to the size it has been bred, or the crosses it may have been thought judicious to adopt, is now confined to the smallest kind of hunting dog, passing under the general denomination of hound ; and of which class are those who inherently possess the property of finding and pursuing their game, by inhaling certain atmospheric particles inexplicably impregnated, which is sportingly termed scent; and this acting upon the olfactory irritability of the dog so hunting, occasions such an exquisite sensation of pleasure that it imperatively extracts a joyful vociferation from every individual, which in the aggregate constitutes what has been, for time immemorial, exultingly called the exhilarating cry of the jovial pack.

Previous to the present improved state of hunting, and polish of field sports, packs of beagles were frequently seen in the possession of gentlemen whose age or infirmities prevented their enjoyment of sport of a different description ; but in proportion to the gradational improvements made in the different kinds of hounds (according to the different chases they were intended to pursue), the former attachment to beagles has been observed to decline. They are the smallest of the hound race used in this country, are exquisite in their scent of the hare, and indefatigably vigilant in their pursuit of her. Though wonderfully inferior in point of speed, yet equally energetic in persevering pursuit, they follow her through all her windings, unravel all her mazes, explore her labyrinths, and by the scent alone trace, and retrace her footsteps to a degree of admiration that must be seen to be properly understood ; during all which the soft and melodious tone of their emulous vociferation seems to be the most predominant inducement to the well-known ecstatic pleasures of the chase.

P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx. | J. Scott Sculp.

BEAGLES.

This slow kind of hunting was admirably adapted to age and the feminine gender; it could be enjoyed by ladies of the greatest timidity as well as gentlemen labouring under infirmity; to both of whom it was a consolation, that if they were occasionally a little way behind, there was barely a possibility of their being thrown out. A pack of this description was perfectly accommodating to the neighbouring rustics, the major part of those not being possessed of horses, found it a matter of no great difficulty to be well up with them on foot. The spirit of emulation seemed formerly to be who should produce the greatest degree of merit in the smallest compass; and packs were to be seen in different parts of the most diminutive description.

Amongst professed amateurs every effort was made to attain perfection, and these indefatigable endeavours were generally attended with success. Beagles were almost uniformly so well matched, that they did not exceed ten or eleven inches in height, and so carefully selected in respect to speed, that whenever they were running they might be covered with a sheet; and this alone is the predominant trait of celebrity in a pack of hounds, or beagles, whether great or small. These, though slow, are incredibly destructive; for if the scent lays well, a hare has very little chance of escape, and this to the object of pursuit must prove a lingering as well as a certain death; for although in the early parts of the chase they can never get near enough the hare to press her, yet they are in general finally fatal, if even three or four hours in killing. In proportion to the increasing spirit of sporting and polish of the times, slow hunting declined, and beagles became of less repute; it being now exceedingly uncommon to see any collection of beagles beyond two or three couple, used in some counties for the greater certainty of finding with greyhounds, in districts where hares, from a variety of circumstances, are known to be scarce or with difficulty to be found.

The numerous and diversified crosses in the different breeds of both beagles and hounds, according to the views, wishes, and inclinations of those who keep them, have so complicated and variegated that particular part of the species, that a volume might be produced in describing the various sorts and sizes, as thought best adapted to the soil and surface for which they are bred and intended to hunt; from the old, heavy, deep-tongued, dew-lapped, southern hound of Lancashire (where the huntsman with his long pole follows on foot), to the fleetest bred northern harriers of the present day, who kill their game

in

in a burst of half an hour or forty minutes with a degree of rapidity but little inferior to coursing.

The breed of hounds now passing under the denomination of harriers, have been brought to their present state of perfection, by a repetition of crosses between the beagle and fox-hound, 'for the increase in size and promotion of speed; but beagles, in the sporting acceptation of the term, are not to be considered synonymous with harriers, to whom, although they possess precisely the same properties, they are very much inferior in size. That some adequate idea may be formed of the original beagle, the following ludicrous transaction is introduced from the most indisputable authority:—

The late Col. Hardy had once a collection of this diminutive tribe amounting to ten or twelve couple, which were always carried to, and from the field of glory in a large pair of panniers slung across a horse; small as they were, and insignificant as they would now seem, they could invariably keep a hare at all her shifts to escape them, and finally worry, or rather teaze her to death. The catastrophe attending which curious pack was of a very singular description; for a small barn having been some time appropriated to the purpose of a kennel, was one night broke open, and every hound as well as the panniers stolen; nor could the most diligent search ever discover the least trace of the robbers, or their sporting appendage.

HARRIER.

THE hound passing under this denomination is the particular breed appropriated to the pursuit of the hare only, from whence its precise distinction is derived. Although the term harrier is in general used to imply the hound-hunting hare only (and that now reduced to one limited standard of conception), yet harriers have been, and still continue, in a more comprehensive acceptation of three different kinds; as the beagle (already described); the southern hound; and the northern beagle, or fleet harrier (of which we now treat), originally generated in a double cross between the small beagle, the southern hound, and the dwarf fox: from the acknowledged excellence of which crosses, the blood now continues to be cultivated in most parts of the kingdom under the appellation of harriers, to the exclusion of the small beagle and the southern hound, who were formerly and equally termed harriers also.

Notwithstanding these distinctions, harriers are bred and varied (in respect to size and strength) according to the wish of the owner, or the nature of the country they hunt in; all which may be regulated in crossing a larger with a smaller size without a material deviation in blood. Mr. Beckford, whose judgment and experience are universally admitted superior to any ever yet publicly promulgated, says, " the hounds, I think, most likely to shew you sport, are between the large slow hunting harrier and the little fox-beagle; the former are too dull, too heavy, and too slow; the latter too lively, too light, and too fleet. The first, it is true, have most excellent noses, and I make no doubt will kill their game at last, if the day be long enough; but you know the days are short in winter, and it is bad hunting in the dark. The other, on the contrary, fling, dash, and are all alive; but every cold blast affects them, and if your country be deep and wet, it is not impossible that some of them may be drowned.

"My hounds (says he) were a cross of both these kinds, in which it was my endeavour to get as much bone and strength in as small a compass as possible. It was a difficult undertaking. I bred many years, and an infinity of hounds, before I could get what I wanted: I at last had the pleasure to see them very handsome; small, yet very bony; they ran remarkable well together; went fast enough; had all the alacrity that could be desired, and would hunt the coldest scent. When they were thus perfect, I did, as many others do—I parted with them."

Notwithstanding the prevalence of fashion has influenced popular opinion in favour of the improved breed of harriers, yet they are by no means applicable to the soil and surface of every country where they have been, or may be introduced. The large, slow, heavy deep-tongued southern hound seems peculiarly adapted to the low swampy marshy lands of Lancashire, Lincolnshire, and many others bordering upon the sea; and the small, busy, indefatigable beagle is evidently intended by nature for those steep, hilly, and mountainous countries where it is impossible for the fleetest horses, with the boldest riders, to lay constantly by the hounds. Harriers of a superior description crossed for speed, are only adapted to display their superiority in those open countries, where, for want of covert, the hare goes five or six miles an end without a turn; as is frequently the case in many of the open countries, constituting runs very much superior to some of the fox-hunting amongst the woodlands.

Hare-hunting (as well as every other pleasure and pursuit of exhilirating attraction) has had its most inveterate, cynically rigid opponents, as well as its equally determined and invincible devotees. Various and vehement have been the declamations against the cruelty of the practice; equally numerous and equally energetic have been the remonstrances in its vindication. That it was enthusiastically enjoyed by the ancients, has been as perseveringly pursued by the moderns, and will so continue (in opposition to every species of puritanical plausibility) to the end of time, will not admit of the least contrariety in opinion.

The sport of hare-hunting is, in general estimation, held inferior to other descriptions of the chase (so far as hard riding and personal courage is concerned), because the exercise is not so violent, nor is the sport of equal duration.

tion. Indeed, the strong and energetic advocates for the more noble sports of stag and fox-hunting, hold it in a very slender degree of estimation, satirically observing, it is an amusement better calculated for the initiation of juveniles, the entertainment of ladies, and the enjoyment of gentlemen advanced in years, and replete with infirmities, who, like the old women in general, are "highly pleased with the sound of the fiddle though no longer able to dance." Hare-hunting, however, though not carrying with it all those brilliant rays of diversity so very attracting to those who delight in a recital of the toils, dangers, and difficulties of the day; yet, to the contemplative naturalist, much more of the true spirit of hunting, and the instinct of animals, is to be observed and enjoyed, than in either of the other two.

Hence it is that hare-hunting is principally followed by sportsmen in the decline of life, as it affords more ample field for rumination upon the sagacious shifts of the game, and the patient, persevering fortitude of the hounds in the variety of heads, turns, and doubles, during the chase. This species of sport is, nevertheless, in a woody or enclosed country such a perpetual routine of repetition within a small sphere, affording no more than a continual succession of the same thing, that with a zealous rider, and a high-mettled horse, it soon palls upon the appetite of both.

Young men, from motives of emulation, naturally appertaining to their time of life, feel an aspiring propensity to encounter difficulties and surmount obstacles, where the effect of enthusiastic ardour and manly exertion can be openly displayed; and consequently prefer that kind of chase where personal fortitude and contempt of danger are brought more to the proof; and where by covering a larger scope of country, and with a much greater proportional rapidity, a more pleasing and extensive variety is obtained. With harriers, or beagles, another cause of mortification frequently presents itself to young sportsmen in the field, who say, a valuable and speedy horse, or a bold rider, are equally unnecessary in hare-hunting, which assertion is constantly brought to the proof; for after a burst, or view of five minutes, in which the experienced sportsman has an opportunity of displaying his own courage and the perfections of his horse in clearing leaps of danger to obtain the lead, a sudden head or double of the hare, lets in the tail of the company, and brings him once more by the side of a rustic upon a five-pound poney, who is nine times out of ten as near the hounds as himself. These circumstances, in addition to the infinite time taken up in find-

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ing where hares are not plenty; the frequency of faults; the inexpressible tediousness and mortification of cold hunting; and the incalculable injuries done to horses in wet, cold, and dreary days during the hours of slow action, are great drawbacks to the pleasure hare-hunting would otherwise afford.

Caprice, human versatility, or fashion, which ever it may be termed, has almost incredibly varied the practice in hunting the hare during the last thirty or forty years; at that time it was the almost invariable rule for the hounds to leave the kennel at dawn of day; to be at the meeting place by the time it was light enough to see to ride with safety, the hounds were never long in procuring trail, and soon went up to their game; which having the gratification to find by their own instinctive sagacity, they pursued with the more determined alacrity; a brace, or leash were then handsomely killed in sporting-like style, and the day concluded by the hour it is now the custom for fashionable company to take the field.

As the trail of a hare lays both partially and imperfectly in proportion to the length of time elapsed since she went to her seat, so is the difficulty of finding increased in proportion to the late or early hour at which the hounds are thrown off; hence it is that the attendants upon different packs, under the denomination of hare-finders, so very little known or required at that time, are now become so truly and unavoidably instrumental to the sport of the day. Although the services of these people are always welcome to the anxious and expectant sportsman, yet it is admitted by every judicious and competent observer, they are exceedingly prejudicial to the good order and regular discipline of hounds; for having occasionally such assistance, they become habitually indolent and progressively wild; the game being so frequently and easily found for them, they become individually and conjunctively indifferent to the trouble of finding it for themselves. Those who are accustomed to have their hares found sitting, know the hare-finders as well as they know the huntsman, and will not only upon sight set off to meet him, but have their heads eternally thrown up in the air in expectation of a view holloa!

Packs of harriers well-managed, and regularly disciplined, should be quietly brought up to the place of meeting, and when thrown off, a general silence should prevail, that every hound may be permitted to do his own work. Those well

well-bred and properly broke, seldom stand in need of assistance. Officious intrusions frequently do more harm than good; nothing requires greater judgment, or nicer observation in speaking to a hound, than to know the critical moment when a word is wanting. Young sportsmen, like young hounds, are too much accustomed to babbling when newly entered, and often by frivolous questions, or obtrusive conversation, attract the attention of the hounds, and insure the silent curse or public reproach of the huntsman, as well as the contemptuous indifference of every experienced sportsman present upon such occasion.

Those who keep harriers vary considerably in their modes of hunting them; but the humane and liberal-minded never deviate from the consistency and strict impartiality of the chase. If a hare is found sitting, and the hounds too near at hand, they should be immediately (and as it were accidentally) drawn off to prevent her being chopped in her form; the hare should then be silently walked up by the individual who found her, or knows where she is seated, that she may be permitted to go off without alarm, at her own pace. The hounds should then be drawn quietly over the spot from whence she started, where being permitted to come calmly and unexpectedly upon the scent, they then go away with it in a style of uniformity, constituting what may be candidly considered the consistency of the chase.

Notwithstanding the advantages to be derived from this regular and steady mode of proceeding, there are those, who to gratify their own impatient sensations, never can, or never will resist the paltry temptation of giving the hounds a view; and to justify the fallacious propriety of so doing, never fail to assert the certainty of both hare and hounds running the better for it. In addition to this unfeeling manner of beginning the chase, every unfair advantage is taken of the poor little affrighted animal's distress, to deprive her the more speedily of existence, amidst all her numerous exertions and instinctive efforts for the preservation of life. The hounds in such cases, instead of being compelled to continue the chase by scent, and to kill the hare by dint of their own persevering labour, are too often capped or holloa'd from chase to view, and the object of pursuit most wantonly and inhumanly destroyed; for, under such a prostitution of intentional sport, nothing but a miracle can effect its escape.

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In hare-hunting of this description, when the hare is turned out of her form, or suddenly jumps up before the hounds, a general shout of clamorous exultation from the multitude too frequently prevails; by which the hare's intentional course is prevented, and she is by such means often headed and turned into the very body of the hounds to a certain death; when on the contrary, was she prudently permitted to glide off with less alarm, and to break view without being so closely pressed at starting, much better runs and more sport would to a certainty be ascertained. Individual emulation, or individual obstinacy, occasions horsemen in hare-hunting to be too near the hounds, who being naturally urged by the rattling of the horses and the exulting zeal of the riders, often over-run the scent, and have no alternative but to turn and divide amidst the legs of the horses so soon as they have lost it; and to this frequently occurring and inconsiderate rashness may be justly attributed many of the long and tedious faults which occur, rendering this kind of chase less attracting than any other.

There are those of dissimilar sensations who enjoy the sport with equal energy, but enjoy it much more mercifully; these would rather see their favourite pack occasionally beaten, than the hare destroyed by any unfair or unsporting-like introduction. Sportsmen possessing so nice a sense of honour, never permit a profusion of vociferous and unnecessary assistance from the huntsman, who is strictly enjoined to an almost silent execution of his own duty, that the hounds may not be obstructed (by his superfluous obtrusions) in a strict and attentive performance of theirs. Whenever they throw up, and are at fault upon a dry or greasy fallow, a foot-path, a highway, or a turnpike-road, a thousand enchanting, busy, bustling endeavours are to be self-made by the hounds for a recovery of the scent, before the least endeavour is permitted to assist in lifting them along; and even then it can only be allowed when every patient and persevering struggle has failed of success.

The sportsman of this description admits of no device, stratagem, or foul play whatever; the hounds must find their own game, and they must fairly hunt it when found; they must go over every inch of ground the hare has gone before them; they must recover their own checks, hit off their own defaults, and by cold and patient hunting pick it along, where in passing through a flock of sheep the ground has been foiled, and the chase proportionally retarded. Too early and extensive casts should not be made unless justified by some unexpected

pected or unavoidable emergency; as the rapidity of storms and fluctuation of weather; the repeated intervention of sheep; intersection of roads, or of fallows in a dry season, when it is found impracticable to make progress in getting the hounds along without assistance.

It is well known, and universally admitted by every judicious and experienced lover of the chase, that when hounds come to a check from any of the causes here described, not a horse should move, or a voice be heard; every hound is eagerly and instantly employed, exerting all his powers for a recovery of the scent (the only clue he has to guide him), in which, if not obstructed, he will most probably soon succeed. In such agitating dilemma, there is generally some impatient juvenile, or "pestering poppinjay" in the field, who unfortunately for himself never speaks but upon the most improper occasion, rendering the observation of an old sportsman neat and applicable, that "when in the field he never desired to hear any other tongue, than the tongue of a hound."

Whenever assistance to harriers is unavoidably necessary, that is, when the chase can no longer be carried on without it; sound judgment and steady observation are the ready requisites to speedy success. Casts cannot be made by any fixed, certain, or invariable rules, but must, at different times, be differently dependent upon the chase, the soil, the weather, and the country hunted in. In one instance it may be prudent to try forward first; in another to try back; as it may be judicious or proper to make a small circular cast first at one time, and a much larger at another; and although to some in the field, circumstances may appear to be nearly the same in either instance, yet they may not prove so in the eye of the huntsman, upon whose superior knowledge, or well-founded experience and circumspection the good, or ill effect of the experiment must depend.

It is too much a custom with the weak, inconsiderate, and inexperienced to obtrude their officious opinions when hounds come to a check; those who do it, soon find their interference is ill-timed, and that it only excites a silent indifference bordering upon contempt. Juveniles and noviciates cannot be too silent and circumspect in the field with hounds, if they wish to avoid reproofs, and not to encounter rebuffs from the huntsman, who is of course tenacious and always alive to the reputation of his pack. Some there are, whose hard fate it is to become conspicuously ridiculous upon every occasion that can possibly

sibly occur, a d to such, unfortunately for them, occasions are seldom wanting. There are generally to be seen some of this description, who during the chase are riding into, over, or before the hounds; and at every check asking some frivolous, trifling question of the huntsman, or entering into an improper and injudicious conversation with part of the company. Officious individuals, possessing a certain degree of personal pride and unlimited confidence, should, upon such occasions, advert to their power of retrospection, which may, probably, remind them "the post of honour is a private station," and that in painting, a diminutive object may be admirably calculated to give effect to some part of the back ground, which could never with propriety be brought forward as a principal or striking figure in the front of the picture.

Mr. Beckford, whose very name affords sufficient authority for any remarks introduced upon the subject, has observed, that "harriers to be good, like all other hounds, must be kept to their own game: if you run fox with them you spoil them: hounds cannot be perfect unless used to one scent and one style of hunting. Harriers run fox in so different a style from hare, that it is of great disservice to them when they return to hare again; it makes them wild, and teaches them to skirt. The high scent which a fox leaves, the straightness of his running, the eagerness of the pursuit, and the noise that generally accompanies it, all contribute to spoil a harrier.'

He is of opinion also, "that it is a fault in a pack of harriers to go too fast; for a hare is a little timorous animal which we cannot help feeling some compassion for, at the very time when we are pursuing her destruction: we should give scope to all her little tricks, nor kill her foully and over-matched. Instinct instructs her to make a good defence when not unfairly treated; and I will venture to say, that as far as her own safety is concerned, she has more cunning than the fox, and makes many shifts to save her life, beyond all his artifice. Concluding with an observation that we have often heard of hares who, from the miraculous escapes they have made, have been thought witches, but he believes none ever heard of a fox that had cunning enough to be thought a wizard."

The preceding observation extracted from the "Thoughts of Mr. Beckford on Hunting" is literally founded on the basis of truth and experience. No distinct difference of light and shade upon the canvas, no effect of the elements upon the human frame, can be productive of more opposite sensations, than the

the requisites necessary to form a proper distinction between the regular modes of hunting and killing hare or fox; for the very means calculated for the successful promotion of one, would as evidently prove the evident prevention of the other: from which it is natural to infer, that a huntsman eminently qualified to hunt either, would be but little likely to acquire celebrity for hunting both; for as the accustomed spirit, speed, and dashing impetuosity of the fox-hunter would soon lose a hare, so the philosophic patience, and habitual tardiness of the hare-hunter would never kill a fox.

In elucidation of this fact, it becomes again necessary to advert to another passage in the celebrated publication of Mr. Beckford, where he says, "It may be necessary to unsay, now that I am turned hare-hunter again, many things I have been saying, as a fox-hunter; as I hardly know any two things of the same genus (if I may be allowed the expression), that differ so entirely. What I said in a former letter, about the huntsman and whipper-in, is in the number: as to the huntsman, he should not be young: I should most certainly prefer one, as the French call it, *d'un certain age*, as he is to be quiet and patient; for patience he should be a perfect grizzle, and the more quiet he is, the better. He should have infinite perseverance, for a hare should never be given up while it is possible to hunt her: she is sure to stop, and therefore may always be recovered. Were it usual to attend to the breed of our huntsmen as well as to that of our hounds, I know no family that would furnish a better cross than that of the silent gentleman mentioned by the Spectator; a female of his line, crossed with a knowing huntsman, would probably produce a perfect hare-hunter."

Much noise and clamour is directly contrary to the systematic principles of hare-hunting, which is to be calm, perfectly quiet, and to let the hounds alone; few hounds are so good, none better, than many town packs who have no professed huntsman engaged to hunt them. If they have no one to assist them, it must, at the same time, be remembered, they have no one to interrupt them, which in this kind of hunting is still more material; though there is one fault such hounds must of necessity sometimes be guilty of, that is running back the heel. Hounds are naturally fond of scent, and if they are foiled and disappointed in carrying it forward, they of course turn and endeavour to hunt it back: hounds left to themselves, soon repeat this to a fault, and it is to be observed almost the only one they have.

Although it is upon the broad scale of universality certainly best to let the hounds alone, thereby giving as much scope as possible to their natural instinct; yet in this particular instance it is necessary to check it mildly; for as it is an almost invariable rule in every kind of hunting to make the head good, they should be encouraged to try forward first; which may always be done without taking them off their noses, or the least prejudice to their hunting. If trying forward should not succeed, they may then be permitted to try back, which they will at all times be ready enough to do; for they are always perfectly sensible how far they brought the scent, know where they left it, and are eagerly anxious to recover it. Much at this moment depends upon the temper, patience, and skill of the huntsman, who should be attached to the sport, and indefatigable in the pursuit of it; he should be sensible, good tempered, sober, exact, and cleanly, a good groom, and an excellent horseman; his voice should be strong and clear, with an eye so quick as to perceive which of his hounds carry the scent when all are running, and where they throw up; as well as an ear so excellent, as always to distinguish the leading hounds when he does not see them. Such are the qualities that constitute perfection in a huntsman; he should not, however, be too fond of displaying them, till called forth by necessity; it being a peculiar and distinguishing trait in his province to let his hounds alone whilst they can hunt, and strenuously to assist them when they cannot.

It has been before observed, that when a hare is found, she cannot be permitted to steal away too silently before the hounds; her own extreme timidity frequently occasions her heading, and the pack are as repeatedly liable to overrun the scent. The huntsman, by not pressing too close upon the hounds himself, will keep the company at a proper distance also, and when they are thus left to a proper and free use of their own faculties, they are but little likely to over-run it much. Mr. Beckford, whose judgment and celebrity is so universally known and so frequently mentioned, has something so applicable and truly just in almost every page upon this subject, that it is impossible to resist the temptation of quoting a few occasional passages where the intentional purport is so emphatically expressed.

He not only accords in every consistent uniformity of the chase, but so continually strengthens his opinions with the embellishment of applicable anecdote, that it is almost impossible to look into his work without equal amusement and instruction. He holds it a rule, "that hounds through the whole chase should

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be left almost entirely to themselves, and not be much hallooed: when the hare doubles, the hounds should hunt through those doubles; nor is a hare hunted fairly when hunted otherwise. They should follow her every step she takes, as well over greasy fallows, as through flocks of sheep; nor should they ever be cast, but when nothing can be done without it."

The moment a huntsman has thrown off, as well as during every progress of the chase, his place is at the head of his hounds; relying upon the ability of the whipper-in, he has nothing to do with what is going on behind. The instant he observes the leading hounds come to a check is the very critical moment in which his earnest attention is the most required; then is the time to enjoin and enforce an equal check and silence of the too eager company; every eye and every ear may be anxiously and inquisitively employed, but not the sound of a tongue is necessary upon the occasion. Those who are inclined to babble in a moment of so much doubtful expectation, lay claim to, and generally obtain, a most contemptuous sneer from the huntsman, and not unfrequently, what is called a blessing into the bargain.

The huntsman should at no time be too ready to avail himself of a halloo when hounds are at fault; such are often deceptive, and occasion disappointment; exclusive of which mortification, after they have been taken from the precise spot to which they well know they brought the scent, they become less strenuous in their endeavours, when they do not recover it elsewhere, particularly where they were so earnestly encouraged to expect it. Boys keeping birds, as well as rustics (some from envy, and others from sympathetic enjoyment), frequently lead the huntsman from his point; Mr. Beckford, therefore, gives it as his opinion, that when such circumstance occurs, and a doubt arises, it is better for a whipper-in, or one of the company, to ride forward and ascertain the truth, it is only the loss of a little time and labour; whereas if all gallop away to a halloo, and are obliged to return, the body of hounds become sometimes indifferent, and it is a chance if they make another effectual effort to recover the scent.

Not the smallest attention whatever should be bestowed upon any halloo (however clamorous and incessant), unless the hounds are evidently at fault, and the chase suspended; a huntsman taking his hounds from the chase when running, to

to a halloo without much more than a common cause, can be considered but little better than a fool or a madman. Hounds are sometimes halloo'd too much, and are too frequently permitted to obey it; the consequence is, they are no sooner at fault than they expect it: huntsmen hurt their hounds by availing themselves of such advantage, it makes them indifferent; when the least at fault they are always upon the listen, becoming more and more slack, particularly in covert. So long as hounds are enabled to carry on the scent, it must be a very poor and paradoxical practice to take them off; but when, with all their fair and indefatigable exertions it cannot be recovered, it then becomes a duty to render them every assistance; of which Somervile affords a picturesque delineation :—

"Huntsman take heed; they stop in full career.
Yon crowding flocks, that at a distance gaze,
Have hap'ly foil'd the turf. See! that old hound,
How busily he works, but dares not trust
His doubtful sense; draw yet a wider ring.
Hark! now again the chorus fills. As bells,
Sally'd awhile, at once their peal renew,
And high in air the tuneful thunder rolls.
See, how they toss, with animated rage
Recovering all they lost! That eager haste
Some doubling wile foreshows. Ah! yet once more
They're check'd, hold back with speed—on either hand
They flourish round—e'en yet persist—'Tis right,
Away they spring; the rustling stubbles bend
Beneath the driving storm. Now the poor chase
Begins to flag, to her last shifts reduced.
From brake to brake she flies, and visits all
Her well-known haunts, where once she rang'd secure,
With love and plenty blest. See! there she goes,
She reels along, and by her gait betrays
Her inward weakness. See! how black she looks!
The sweat, that clogs th' obstructed pores, scarce leaves
A languid scent. And now in open view
See, see, she flies! each eager hound exerts
His utmost speed, and stretches every nerve,
How quick she turns! their gaping jaws eludes,
And yet a moment lives; 'till, round enclosed
By all the greedy pack, with infant screams
She yields her breath, and there reluctant dies."

High-bred, spirited harriers, should never be too much pressed upon by horsemen in the chase, or too much encouraged at a check; for their natural eagerness in the former, and their disappointment in the latter, will, at such a time, frequently carry them wide of the scent beyond a possibility of recovery, and this should, of course, be guarded against as much as circumstances will permit. On high-roads and foot-paths, a too hasty reliance must not be made; but when a hit is made on either side, the hounds cannot be encouraged too much. A hare generally describes a circle as she runs, larger or less in extent, according to her own strength and the nature of the country she is hunted in. In enclosures intersected with small coverts, those circles are so small that it is an almost constant puzzle to the hounds. Besides, in running the foil, they repeatedly make doubles, the better to confuse their pursuers; and, in proportion as they make the first double, so they continue the repetitions, whether long or short. And when they make their double on a high road, or dry path, they mostly leave it with a spring of such magnitude and incredibility, that it is often the occasion of a very long fault.

A hare will, it is well known, after running a path some considerable distance, make a double, and then stop till the hounds have past her; she will then steal away secretly, and return the way she came. This is the most arduous trial for hounds; it is so hot a foil, that, in the best packs, there are not many hounds that can hunt it; those who can should be attended to, and an endeavour made to hit her off where she breaks her foil, which she will soon do when she thinks herself secure, except it is in covert, when the scent lies bad, and then she sometimes absolutely seems to hunt the hounds. In a favourable day for hunting, hounds seldom give up the scent at head; if they do, there is generally a palpable reason for it; and this, those who hunt the hounds should be careful to observe, as by it alone they will be the better qualified to make their cast. If the huntsman be of a superior description, he will attend as he goes not only to his hounds (minutely observing which have the lead and what scent they carry), but also to the various circumstances attendant upon sudden changes of the weather and difference of soil. He will also be mindful of the distance she keeps before the hounds, recollect her former doubles, and the point she principally makes to.

These observations have all their collateral use if a long fault renders assistance necessary. When hounds are cast, a small circle should be begun with, that

that not succeeding, a larger should follow; which not proving successful, perseverance must depend upon time and circumstances, which are not always the same. As a hare is mostly inclined to revisit her old haunts, and generally, when it is in her power, returns to, or near the place where she was first found, if the scent be totally lost, and the hounds can no longer hunt, that may prove as likely a cast as any to recover her. In all casts, the huntsman should remember the hounds are not to follow at his horse's heels, nor to carry their heads up, with their noses in the air; if they do not try for the scent, they will never find it; and the casts should be made fast or slow, as the hounds are perceived to try, and in proportion as the scent is observed to be good or ill.

It should be the peculiar care of every huntsman to prevent, as much as possible, his hounds from chopping hares in their forms; huntsmen are, in general, too fond of getting blood at any rate, and when hounds are used to it, it is surprizing to see how anxious they are to find opportunities. In many instances a hare must be very wild, or very nimble to escape them. Mr. Beckford remembers, in a furzy country, his hounds to have chopped three hares in one morning; for it is the nature of those animals either to leap up and steal away before the hounds come near them, or else to lie close, till they put their very noses upon them. Hedges also are dangerous in this respect, particularly if the huntsman beats the hedge himself, which is too much the practice; the hounds in such case are always upon the watch, and a hare must be exceedingly lucky to escape them all. The best way to prevent it, is to have the hedge well beaten at some distance before the hounds.

The same writer likewise observes, "they who like to rise early will have much amusement in seeing the hare trailed to her form; it is of great service to hounds, and shews their goodness to the huntsman more than any other hunting, as it discovers to him those who have the tenderest noses and can be the most relied on. But he confesses he never thought it worth his while to leave his bed a moment sooner on that account; because he always considered hare-hunting should be taken as a ride after breakfast, to procure an appetite for dinner." Hares are said to foresee a change in the weather, and to seat themselves accordingly: this may be doubted; but certain it is, they are seldom found in places much exposed to the wind. In enclosures they are found more frequently near to a hedge than in the middle of a field; conscious that when disturbed they can sooner break view. Some have a wonderful facility in finding hares sitting;

sitting; others there are who never find them from not knowing them in their forms even when pointed out to them. A gentleman, upon a coursing party with his friends, was shewn a hare just found sitting, who instantly exclaimed— "Is that a hare?—Then, by Jove! I found two this morning as we rode along."

As it has been already observed there is one class of fair sportsmen who never permit their game to be killed but in a true systematic style; so there are others of a direct opposite description, who never pay the least respect to system, so as they do but kill. Of this Mr. Beckford recites an authentic instance amongst his own friends, saying, he once knew a gentleman, a pleasant sportsman, but a very irregular hare-hunter, who did not exactly follow some of the rules previously laid down; and observes, as his method was very extraordinary, he shall relate it, which he does in the following words:—"His hounds are large and fleet; they have at times hunted every thing; red deer, fallow deer, fox, and hare; and must in their nature have been most excellent, since, notwithstanding the variety of their game, they are still good. When a hare is found sitting, he seldom fails to give his hounds a view; and as the men all halloo, and make what noise they can, she is half-frighted to death immediately. This done, he then sends his whipper-in to ride after her, with particular directions not to let her get out of his sight: and he has found out that this is the only proper use of a whipper-in. If they come to a piece of fallow, or a flock of sheep, the hounds are not suffered to hunt any longer, but they are capped and hallooed as near to the hare as possible; by this time the poor devil is near her end, which the next view generally finishes. The strongest hare in this manner seldom standing twenty minutes before the hounds; but my friend says, "a hare is good eating, and he therefore thinks he cannot kill too many of them."

This remark upon the singularity of his friend's mode of hunting, and the excellence of his hounds, he follows up with an excellence of a more variegated description; for having heard of a small pack to be disposed of in Derbyshire, he sent his coachman to fetch them, being the person he could most conveniently spare upon the occasion. It being a long journey, and the messenger not at all used to hounds, he had some trouble in getting them along; also, as ill-luck would have it, they had not been out of the kennel for some weeks before, and were so very riotous they ran after every thing they saw; sheep, cur-dogs, and

birds

birds of all sorts, as well as hares and deer, had been his amusement all the way home; however, he fortunately lost but one hound, and when his master asked him what he thought of them, he replied, "they could not fail of being good hounds, for they would hunt *any thing*."

That this habitual tendency to universality may be as much as possible restrained, great circumspection is necessary to preserve the blood of the harrier free from contamination. The most judicious and experienced sportsmen are exceedingly tenacious upon the score of superiority, and of course adhere the more closely to rules laid down for the perfect propagation of the pack and its progeny. The better to promote which, it is necessary to consider the size, shape, colour, constitution, disposition, and qualifications of the dog it is intended to breed from, as well as the irritability of his olfactory sensations, his stoutness, bodily strength, unremitting energy and manner of hunting, as well in his endeavours to find his game, as during the chase. It is, by no means, a proof of sporting judgment to breed from any hound (however great a favourite) that is not constitutionally stout and completely adequate to the purpose for which he is intended, and as truly applicable to the kind of country he is destined to; hence it is a maxim almost universally established, never to breed from a dog that is not tender-nosed, and equally so never to increase stock, or promote progeny, from those who display a tendency to skirt or babble.

Somervile, whose judgment has never been disputed or arraigned, affords the first and best authority for the adoption of this opinion in his remarks upon the formation of a pack in the following lines:—

Observe with care his shape, sort, colour, size;
Nor will sagacious huntsmen less regard
His inward habits; the vain babbler shun,
Ever loquacious, ever in the wrong,
His foolish offspring shall offend thy ears
With false alarm and loud impertinence.
Nor less the shifting cur avoid, that breaks
Illusive from the pack; to the next hedge
Devious he strays, there every meuse he tries,
If haply then he cross the streaming scent,
Away he flies vain-glorious; and exults
As of the pack supreme and in his speed
And strength unrivall'd.

Mr.

Mr. Beckford also judiciously observes, babbling is one of the worst faults that a hound can be guilty of, it is constantly increasing, and, like many other defects, is absolutely catching, without a single reason why it should be so. It is an experimental remark, that it is the judicious cross alone which makes the pack complete; the fault and imperfections in one breed may be corrected by another; and if these, and other collateral rules are properly attended to, there is every well-founded reason to believe the breed of hounds may be improved till improvement can proceed no farther. In making crosses of anxious expectation, strict attention should be paid to the resulting consequence: when such crosses hit, they should be continued, it being no bad plan to let well alone, and to be satisfied with a moderate roportion of perfection.

Those who aspire to this, must not become subservient to the fluctuating effusions of caprice, or the speculative introduction of new opinions; but should advert to, and abide by, well formed and firmly established rules, in adhering to which they will find but little chance of disappointment. Old dogs should never be warded to old or enfeebled bitches; such extreme should be avoided, when there is age on one side, there should be youth on the other, and this experience seems with justice to have been decided in favour of the masculine gender. Both sire and dam should be healthy, or there can be no great probability of an healthy offspring. If a hound who in other respects be excellent, and a well-founded favourite, should be a little inclined to skirting, with too much dash in his disposition, such dog should be crossed with a close-tongued, thorough-line hunting bitch, from both which an admirable hit may probably ensue. The great and most substantial reason for not breeding from either a skirting-hound, or a babbler, is, that they are too often seen to acquire one, or the other, by imitation or practice, and it may be better not to render it natural by propagating habitual defects with the blood.

Where it can be so managed, puppies are best produced in the spring months, late whelps seldom thrive in an equal degree; at least they all require the best walks and the greater attention. Bitches should not be permitted to hunt in the advanced stages of gestation, it frequently debilitates the puppies, and sometimes proves fatal to the bitch herself; nor is it altogether prudent to leave them in the kennel when the time of parturition is approaching. A bitch having many puppies (of whose future excellence great expectation is formed) may have them occasionally preserved, by transferring a part to any other bitch hap-

 pening

pening to be in a similar state at the same time. This particular race seem to prove, upon the general scale, more prolific than most of the species, having sometimes an extraordinary number; they have been known to bring forth fifteen, and even sixteen, all alive.

When breeding from a favourite sort, it is matter of convenience if another bitch can be warded at or about the same time; by which the whole of both litters (if required) can be saved. At this period the bitches should be amply furnished with flesh, and by no means stinted in milk; the whelps should not be taken away till they are very well able to take care of themselves; they will soon learn to lap by example, and the mother will be the sooner relieved. When the puppies are taken away, the bitches should have each three doses of physic, that no humours may be produced by the absorption of the milk. The distemper makes such dreadful havoc amongst young hounds, that too much attention cannot be bestowed upon its counteraction; numbers of young hounds perish at their walks under the effect of disease, and this, probably, happens from the little care taken of them upon such occasions.

It may be observed, that young hounds are generally named when first put out to their walk, and frequently (as observed by Mr. Beckford) ridiculously enough; particularly, as it is with some a custom to name all the whelps of one litter with the same letter, which (to be systematically done) should also be the initial letter of the dog who got them, or the bitch that bore them; and he mentions an instance of a baronet of his acquaintance, who, as a literal observer of the above rule, sent three young hounds of one litter to a friend, all their names beginning, as *he said*, with the letter G. Gowler, Govial, and Galloper. Mr. B. says, it is of little consequence what huntsmen call their hounds, and is of opinion their names may be as well let alone till they are brought home from their walks; they soon learn their names, and a shorter list would do. Damons and Delias would not then be necessary; nor need the sacred names of Titus and Trajan be thus degraded. It is true, there are many odd names which custom authorizes; yet he cannot think, because some drunken fellow or other has named his dog Tipler, or Tapster, that there is the least reason to follow his example. Pipers and Fidlers, on account of their music, he does not object to; but tiplers and tapsters are done better without.

Proceeding in an ironical strain to play upon the absurdity of names, he remembers to have seen a white Gipsey, a grey Ruby, a dark Snowball, and a Blueman of any colour but blue. He recollects the huntsman of a friend of his being asked the name of a young hound, who said it was Lyman.—" Lyman," said his master; " why, James! what does Lyman mean?"—" Lord, Sir!" replied James, " if you come to that, what does any thing mean?" In continuance of his remarks, he mentions a farmer who bred up for him two couple of hounds whose names were Merryman, and Merrylass; Ferryman, and Furious; who, upon Mr. Beckford's enquiries, gave this account of them: " Merryman and Merrylass are both dead; but Ferryman, Sir, is a fine dog, and so is Furious." He adds, that Madam, though an unusual name among hounds, is often disrespectfully treated, and gives an instance of it in his own huntsman, who, after having rated Madam a great deal to no purpose (who, to confess the truth, was much given to do otherwise than she should), flew into a violent passion, and hallooed out, as loud as he could, " Madam, you d——d bitch!"

The musical applicability of names certainly adds, in no small degree, to the systematic uniformity of the pack, particularly in the enchanting enjoyment of the chase; during which, discordant tones and unmeaning sounds vibrate heterogeneally upon the sporting ear. Young sportsmen, in forming their hunting establishments, are, from inexperience, frequently at a loss for names applicable to the sport, the dog, his temper, and colour; hence it is so many are injudiciously selected, and so ill applied; that which may not so often occur for want of adequate information, such list of names are introduced, as will be found to contain every variety, from whence may be collected a diversity for the formation of a pack of any and every description.

DOGS.

ATLAS	Augur	Blueman	Blaster	Captain
Actor	Aimwell	Bellman	Baffler	Caviller
Awful	Able	Bluecap	Bragger	Captor
Ardent	Atom	Banger	Brawler	Carver
Archer	Boaster	Bender	Bluff	Caster
Agent	Bouncer	Burster	Cæsar	Chaunter.
Antic	Bluster	Bully	Champion	Chaser
Aider	Bachelor	Brusher	Challenger	Coiner

Craftsman

Craftsman
Chimer
Comus
Conqueror
Constant
Cottager
Coroner
Countryman
Coxcomb
Critic
Crowner
Cruiser
Cryer
Caitiff
Chimer
Crasher
Dasher
Duster
Damper
Danger
Dinger
Driver
Daunter
Dashwood
Darter
Dreadnought
Dragon
Eager
Earnest
Envious
Factor
Fearnought
Ferryman
Forester
Flasher
Fatal
Fleecer
Foiler
Flinger
Fervent
Flagrant
Foamer
Foreman
Finder
Freeman
Foremost
Gamboy
Gazer
Galloper
Gallant
Gainer
Genius
Gimcrack
Giant
Glancer
Glider
Guardian.
Guider
Goblin
Growler
Gamester
Grapler
Grumbler
Grasper.
Hector
Hazard
Hearty
Heedful
Hotspur
Hardy
Headstrong
Harlequin
Hopeful
Hurtful
Harasser
Jumper
Joker
Jovial
Jostler
Jingler
Jerker
Jester
Leader
Leveller
Lusty
Lurcher
Lounger
Lurker
Lasher
Laster
Lifter
Listener
Lightfoot
Monitor
Manful
Marksman
Marplot
Matchem
Meanwell
Maxim
Medler
Mentor
Merlin
Mender
Mighty
Merry
Minikin
Mover
Mounter
Mungo
Mercury
Nonsuch
Noble
Noxious
Nimrod
Nestor
Newsman
Prowler
Prodigal
Prosperous
Pincher
Playful
Plunder
Pageant
Paragon
Partner
Petulant
Perfect
Phœbus
Pilgrim
Pillager
Profit
Pilot
Prophet
Prattler
Presto
Racer
Rampant
Ranger
Rambler
Ranter
Rattler
Random
Ravager
Rector
Ravisher
Rural
Rustic
Rumour
Router
Rover
Rockwood
Ringwood
Rigid
Restive
Regent
Rioter
Reveller
Render
Royal
Romper
Royster
Sportsman
Spokesman
Squabbler
Statesman
Steady
Stickler
Stormer
Striver
Saucebox
Saunter
Scrambler
Splendor
Spoiler
Spanker
Speedwell
Shifter
Songster
Sampler
Social
Schemer
Stinger
Scamper
Smuggler
Shifter
Searcher
Scuffler
Signal
Stroller
Struggle
Sturdy
Stripling
Trimmer
Trimbush
Traveller
Transit
Tartar
Tamer
Tattler
Tragic
Touchstone
Trojan
Taunter
Teazer
Tickler
Torment
Tomboy
Thrasher
Threatner
Thunderer
Torrent
Tracer
Trouncer
Trampler
Tuner

Tuner
Tryer
Tyrant
Truant
Trueman
Trial
Trusty
Twinger
Vermin
Voucher
Viper
Victor
Vagrant
Valliant
Vaulter
Vigilant
Villager
Venture
Vexer
Valorous
Vagabond
Wrangler
Warbler
Wanderer
Warlike
Wonder
Warrior
Well-bred
Woodman
Worthy
Whynot
Wilful
Worker
Wisdom
Wildair

BITCHES.

AIRY
Active
At-all
Amorous
Angry
Anxious
Artful
Actress
Artless
Baneful
Bashful
Beauty
Bauble
Beldam
Busy
Bucksome
Brimstone
Brazen
Bonny
Boundless
Bonnylass
Blithesome
Bluebell
Blowzey
Blameless
Brilliant
Charmer
Chauntress
Cautious
Careful
Careless
Columbine
Comely
Comfort
Comic
Crafty
Crazy
Cruel
Crusty
Crony
Crazy
Concord
Captious
Conquest
Curious
Dainty
Dauntless
Darling
Dreadful
Doubtless
Dexterous
Endless
Echo
Envy
Easy
Famous
Fancy
Fidget
Fickle
Festive
Fearless
Faithful
Flighty
Flippant
Flurry
Fretful
Frolic
Frisky
Fury
Friendly
Guiltless
Guilesome
Grateful
Gracious
Graceful
Graceless
Gladsome
Giddy
Gamesome
Gaylass
Ghastly
Gambol
Gainful
Gipsey
Heedless
Helen
Hostess
Heroine
Hostile
Hasty
Harlot
Jocund
Joyous
Joyful
Jewel
Juno
Lavish
Lawless
Lovely
Lofty
Lively
Likely
Lightsome
Madcap
Music
Mischief
Modish
Minion
Mindful
Magic
Matchless
Needful
Nimble
Neatness
Noisy
Notion
Pastime
Patience
Princess
Phrenzy
Placid
Pliant
Precious
Prettylass
Prudence
Prodigal
Priestess
Rally
Racket
Ransom
Restless
Ravish
Rapture
Rapine
Rapid
Rally
Rival
Roguish
Ruby
Ruthless
Sportive
Spinster
Speedy
Sprightly
Songstress
Skilful
Scornful
Stately
Tuneful
Trifle
Transit
Toilsome
Testy
Telltale
Tempest
Thoughtful
Timely
Trespass
Tragic
Vanquish
Venture
Venus
Vocal
Vivid
Verity
Vicious
Vengeful
Volatile
Wanton
Warfare
Waspish
Wasteful
Watchful
Welcome
Whimsey
Wilful
Wishful
Wrathful
Waggish
Wagtail

A hare.

A hare-hunting establishment once founded, and the pack well formed, nothing can contribute more to their health and success than the construction of the kennel and the salubrious scite upon which it is erected. Those who at their commencement build a kennel, will be likely to attain the most perfect accumulation of conveniencies; the opinion and the mind may vary in respect to a change of hounds from one kind to another, but the kennel will still remain the same, still keep its original deficiencies and imperfections unless altered at a great expence; and be less perfect at last than it might have been made had a judicious plan been at first projected, and carried into execution. Hounds, it is well known, may be kept in barns, stables, and outhouses of inferior description; but those who condescend to keep them in such filthy and slovenly receptacles. are the best enabled to say, how far such hounds are capable of answering the purposes for which they are designed, or to acquire a degree of that pre-eminence in the field every proprietor of a pack is so anxious to attain. Somervile, whose well-known attachment to the chase prevented him from omitting the most trifling minutiæ appertaining thereto, has thus emphatically expressed himself:—

First let the kennel be the huntsman's care,
Upon some little eminence erect
And fronting to the ruddy dawn; its courts
On either hand wide opening to receive
The sun's all cheering beams, when mild he shines,
And gilds the mountain tops. For much the pack
(Rous'd from their dark alcoves) delight to stretch
And bask in his invigorating ray:
Warn'd by the streaming light, and merry lark,
Forth rush the jolly clan: with tuneful throats
They carol loud, and in grand chorus joined,
Salute the new-born day. For not alone
The vegetable world, but men and brutes
Own his reviving influence, and joy
At his approach.

Those who have occasion to build kennels, cannot do better than inspect a variety of others before they begin to erect their own; this prudent precaution may, probably, prevent the necessity of future expensive alterations. Room of every kind, and conveniencies of every description, should be at first insured, that uniformity may be preserved; alterations distort the plan and impoverish appearance. The best informed are of opinion, two kennels are indispensably

necessary to the well-being and well-doing of the hounds; upon this principle, that if there is but one it is seldom sweet; and when cleaned out, the hounds, particularly in winter, suffer both whilst it is cleaning, and as long as it continues wet or damp after that unavoidable operation is performed. One of these kennels (where two are in use) is called the hunting-kennel, into which the hounds are drafted intended for the next day's chase. When used to the same kennel, they answer to their names more readily, are drafted more easily, and counted with more facility.

Much taste and architectural discrimination is necessary in the construction of a kennel, upon the comforts of which the state of the aggregate so very much depends. Cleanliness is not only singularly essential to the nose of the hound, but absolutely conducive to the preservation of his health. Dogs are naturally disposed to neatness, and will seldom (when they can avoid it) dung, or urine where they lie; air and clean litter are necessary to the preservation of health, of which they are so conscious, that they avail themselves of both as much as in their power. Of this Somervile was well aware in his inculcations respecting the erection and management of the kennel.

Banish far off
Each noisome stench, let no offensive smell
Invade thy wide inclosure, but admit
The nitrous air, and purifying breeze.

This extreme attention to cleanliness is the more necessary, because the sense of smelling is so exquisite (not only in the hound, but in every kind of dog appropriated to the sports of the field), that it is natural to conclude every offensive and putrefied effluvia must operate to its prejudice. It is upon the unsullied purity of that faculty upon which every hope of sport can alone depend; for without the olfactory sensations are in a state of perfection, little expectation can be entertained of carrying the scent breast-high over dry and dusty fallows, stony roads, barren heaths, or where sheep may have stained the ground.

This inexplicable property passing under the denomination of scent, is the fundamental principle from which the great and gratifying enjoyment of field-sports is derived. It is a subject upon which so many have condescended to lu-

cubrate

cubrate, and to write without being enabled satisfactorily to define. It has been observed by one, that scent is an effluvium continually arising from the corpuscles that issue out of all bodies; and being impregnated with the peculiar state and quality of the blood and juices of that particular animal from which they flow, occasions the vast variety of smells or scents cognizable by the olfactory nerves or organs of smelling. This writer proceeds thus in confirmation:—"Hence it is why one person differs from another in scent, and why a dog will trace the footsteps of his master for a hundred miles together, following him into any house, church, or other building, though surrounded by ten thousand: and when the faithful animal has thus diligently sought and recognized his master, he is seldom willing even to trust the evidence of his own eyes, until, with erected crest, he has taken a few cordial sniffs to be convinced he is right."

From hence also it is to be inferred how hounds are enabled to continue the pursuit of stag, fox, hare, or any other animal they are trained to hunt, across the scent of others of the same species (as for instance through a herd of deer) without being diverted from the pursuit of the particular object they had first on foot: and hence too we discover how it is possible for birds and beasts of prey to be directed to their natural food at such immense distances as is scarcely to be believed; for these corpuscles issuing from putrid bodies, and floating in the atmosphere, are carried by the wind to different quarters, where striking the olfactory nerves of whatever animals they meet in their various directions, it invariably conducts them to the spot desired: and by the same means it is, that the small-pox, measles, putrid fevers, and other malignant diseases are communicated, and the plague and pestilence conveyed from one place to another.

It does not appear to be material how much the predominance of the effluvia may be gone off, so as enough remains to irritate or act upon the olfactory sensation; for whether it be bird or beast, they try the scent in all directions, till at length they discover which grows stronger and stronger in proportion as they advance; and this they intuitively know is the direct and obvious road to their prey, and prevents their following a contrary course, which is naturally weaker and weaker the farther they proceed, and is, in reality, what in the chase is termed "running heel." This is palpably confirmed by the increasing eagerness of all animals the nearer they approach the object of pursuit; as may be

observed of hounds in hunting, and spaniels in shooting, who are the more earnest and clamorous in proportion as the scent gets stronger, the nearer they get to the game.

Amongst experienced naturalists and nice observers, it is well known that the same thing amongst quadrupeds (whether wild or domestic), directs the male to the female, who is in season for copulation; hence it is the horse, the dog, the stag, the bull and the boar, applying their distended nostrils to the ambient air, acquire the necessary and natural information. By the same means the very vermin which infest our habitations know how to direct their operations; whether to undermine walls, perforate solid boards, cross rivers, climb spouts, or scale walls, palpably demonstrating how much stronger the faculty of smelling is possessed by the brute than the human species; this is evidently and wisely ordained by nature to assist them in the procuration of food, and the propagation of their species, but for which obvious dispensations they must often perish, or have long since become extinct.

A writer of much modern celebrity in his poetic effusions of "The Chase," seemed earnestly anxious to explore this hidden source of instinct, and upon the most minute attention conceived the scent to arise from the peculiar property of the blood; which (when the game is on foot) is so increased in its circulation, that the "serous particles" are propelled through the skin in perspiration, and

"Leave a long-steaming trail behind; which, by
The cooller air condens'd, remains, unless
By some rude storm dispers'd, or rarefy'd
By the meridian sun's intenser heat.
To every shrub the warm effluvia cling,
Hang on the grass, impregnate earth and skies.
With nostrils opening wide, o'er hill, o'er dale,
The vig'rous hounds pursue, with ev'ry breath
Inhale the grateful steam, quick pleasures sting
Their tingling nerves, while now their thanks repay,
And in triumphant melody confess
The titillating joy. Thus on the air
Depend the hunter's hopes."

 Another

Another writer upon this subject of no inferior eminence, equally strenuous in his endeavours to discover and ascertain the origin and peculiar property of scent, modestly confesses his state of uncertainty; saying it is, he believes, what sportsmen know least about; and, adverting to the conclusion of the above quotation, most judiciously observes—"He cannot agree with Mr. Somervile in thinking that scent depends upon the air only; but that, in a certain proportion and degree, it depends upon the soil also. Without doubt, the best scent is that which is occasioned by the effluvia, as he calls it, or particles of scent, which are constantly perspiring from game as it runs, and are strongest and most favourable to the hound, when kept by the gravity of the air to the height of his breast: for then it is neither above his reach, nor is it necessary he should stoop for it, at which time the scent is said to lay breast-high."

Experience tells us, that difference of soil occasions difference of scent; and on the richness and moderate moistness of the soil does it also depend as much as upon the air. At the time leaves begin to fall, and before they are rotted, it is well known scent lies ill in covert; which is alone a sufficient demonstration that scent does not depend upon the air only. A difference of scent is occasioned by a difference in the degrees of motion; the faster the game goes, the less scent it leaves; or, in other words, the sooner it is obliterated and lost. Of this ample proof is established, when game has been ridden after, and hurried on by impatient and imprudent sportsmen, the scent is always less favourable to hounds; one reason for which may be, that the particles of scent become more rapidly divided and more speedily dispersed. And, it is somewhat extraordinary, that when the object of pursuit has, during the chase, been run by any strange dog not belonging to the pack, it is never without difficulty sufficiently recovered to kill.

Mr. Beckford acknowledges it very difficult to ascertain what scent exactly is (having known it alter very often in the same day), but considers it chiefly dependent on two things; the condition the ground is in, and the temperature of the air, both which, he apprehends, should be moist without being wet; and when they are so, he has observed the scent to be perfect: on the contrary, when the ground is hard, and the air dry, the scent is seldom known to be good. It rarely lies well with an east or northerly wind; a southerly wind without rain, and a westerly wind that is not rough, are the most favourable. Storms in

in the air are great enemies to scent, and seldom fail to take it entirely away. Fine sun-shiny days are not often good hunting days; but what the French call *jour des dames* (warm without sun), are perfectly so; of these, however, there are not many in a whole season. In some fogs he has observed the scent lie well, in others not at all; depending entirely, he believed, upon the quarter the wind happens to be in at the time. He has also known the scent to lie very high in a mist, when not too wet; but if the wet should hang on the bushes and boughs, with a rough wind, it then continues to fall upon the scent, and consequently to deaden it. When the dogs roll, the scent is observed to lie ill, for what reason he does not presume to know; but has remarked, that if the hounds smell strong when they first come out of the kennel in a morning, it is an almost infallible prognostic of a good day.

When cobwebs hang flaccid upon the bushes, scent is very uncertain; during a mild white frost the scent lies high, as it does likewise when the frost is gone; but at the time of its going off it never lies at all; this is the most critical time for hounds, during which the object of pursuit is frequently lost. In a great dew the scent is in a similar state of fluctuation. In heathy or sedgy countries, where the game brushes as it goes along, scent seldom fails; but where the ground carries, the scent is bad, which hare-hunters who pursue their game over greasy fallows, and through dirty roads, have frequent reason to complain of. A wet night is frequently productive of good chases, as then the game neither likes to run the coverts or roads. It is a remark with the oldest and most experienced sportsmen, that scent lies best in the richest soils; as well as that countries which are favourable to horses, are seldom so to hounds.

Amidst the diversified promulgations upon the origin and property of scent, the most opposite opinions equally indulge this simple question of doubt; whether the particles of effluvia which constitute what is termed scent (and by the attractive power of which hounds are excited to follow the game), are proper identical parts of the animal's body emitted in exhalations of respiration from the lungs, or by the transpiration of perspirative matter through the skin. This is probably of too abstruse a depth for the utmost extent of human wisdom to explore. The opinion of Somervile, though founded upon the solid basis of judicious observation, is bettered by the practical remarks of Mr. Beckford upon the promoting, or retarding effects of both atmosphere and soil, to which

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one circumstance alone seems admirably calculated to convey additional rays of elucidation.

It cannot but be perfectly recollected by those who have taken the field with harriers, that although the pack may have picked the trail for a mile, into the very fallow, covert, or stubble, where the hare is sitting in her form; although they are even trying round her in every direction, and many of them within a few yards, yet there is then no more seeming perceptible increase of scent, than when they were previously trailing at half a mile distance; and when she lays close, it is evident the hounds derive no additional advantage from being nearer to her in respect to finding, unless by jumping up, or stealing away, she gets into motion; when the scent is afloat " the steaming trail" commences, and the chase is carried on with more or less success, according to the good or bad state of the scent as already described. Whether this enquiry will ever be traced to a source of certainty is, perhaps, of no material import to science or the sport itself; it, however, affords a large field for speculative philosophy, and is not altogether unworthy investigation.

Upon a contemplative review of the operations of nature it will evidently appear, that there is a secret instinctive principle infused into the whole race of animals, whereby they are impulsively propelled to the propagation of their species, the preservation of their offspring, and an implicit obedience to their most predominant propensities; so that no one shall become too numerous and destructive for the existence of another upon which they are destined to prey; or with whom they live in a state of perpetual warfare. It may, likewise, prove worthy of remark, that the greater likeness we observe in the individual form of the animal creation, the more we perceive their friendly disposition to each other; the reason of which, most probably, is, because the scent of each other's bodies afford a mutual gratification to the sensitive faculties without exciting the appetite; if it was not for which all-wise dispensation of Providence, the same species might be induced to devour each other, and the purposes of nature might be annihilated by the operation of its own works.

In addition to every advantage to be derived from persevering cleanliness in a kennel of whatever description, a sufficiency of room becomes indispensably necessary for the expansion of their weary limbs, the invigoration of the frame, and

and the general promotion of health. It requires no deep rumination, or far-fetched reflection to convince us, that hounds confined in a body are more liable to disease than the same animal single, and in a state of unrestrained liberty; hence the necessity for counteraction by every means the most prudent circumspection can adopt. Hounds thus subject to, and constantly attacked with disease, and even madness, under the best and most judicious management, must be evidently much more so if surrounded with the consequent effects of filth and nastiness. Of these circumstances Somervile was so well aware, that, in his inculcations for the judicious selection of a scite correspondingly adapted for the erection of a kennel, he has enjoined the following emphatic remarks:—

" Water and shade no less demand thy care:
In a large square th' adjacent field enclose,
There plant in equal ranks the spreading elm,
Or fragrant lime; most happy thy design,
If at the bottom of thy spacious court,
A large canal, fed by the crystal brook,
From its transparent bosom shall reflect
Downward thy structure, and inverted grove.
Here when the sun's too potent gleams annoy
The crowded kennel, and the drooping pack,
Restless and faint, loll their unmoisten'd tongues,
And drop their feeble tails, to cooler shades
Lead forth the panting tribe; soon shalt thou find
The cordial breeze their fainting hearts revive:
Tumultuous soon they plunge into the stream,
There lave their reeking sides, with greedy joy
Gulp down the flying wave, this way and that,
From shore to shore they swim, while clamour loud
And wild uproar torment the troubled flood:
Then on the sunny bank they roll, and stretch
Their dripping limbs, or else in wanton rings
Coursing around, pursuing and pursued,
The merry multitude disporting play."

Mr. Beckford, who seems to have exceeded every sporting predecessor, in his enthusiastic attention to the promotion of perfection, in whatever could prove possibly appertaining to the pleasures of the chase; has promulgated such various experimental remarks upon the structure of kennels, and the humane management of hounds when there, as do equal honour to his heart and understanding.

standing. He is a professed advocate for the adoption of every convenience that can possibly contribute to the health, safety, and preservation of the hounds; readily coinciding with the suggestions of Somervile (whose opinions had gone before him), in every minute particular that can possibly tend to the individual comfort and general accommodation of the aggregate.

Although the kennel for a pack of harriers is by no means required upon a scale of equal magnitude with the superior departments of the chase (as will be hereafter enlarged upon under their proper heads); yet they are proportionally entitled to every advantage that can be introduced for the uniform completion of the establishment, according to the plan originally laid down, and the extent to which it is to be supported. Mr. Beckford is of opinion, that contrary to the usual practice in building kennels, there should be three doors; two in the front, and one in the back; the latter to have a lattice-window, with a wooden shutter in it, which is constantly to be kept closed when the hounds are in, except in summer, when it should be left open all the day. This door may answer two very necessary purposes; it will afford an opportunity to carry out all the straw and foul litter when the lodging-room is cleaned, and as it should be opposite the window, will prove the means of admitting a thorough air, which will, of course, greatly contribute to the keeping it sweet and wholesome.

The other doors will be of use in drying the room when the hounds are out; and, as one is to be kept shut, and the other hooked back (allowing just room for a dog to pass), they cannot be liable to the least objection. The great window in the centre should have a folding-shutter; half, or the whole of which, may be shut at nights according to the weather, and by these means the temperature regulated according to times and seasons. The two great lodging-rooms should be formed exactly alike, with each a court to it, situate at the opposite ends of the building, constituting, if necessary, two distinct kennels; in the centre of these should be the boiling-house and feeding-yard; and on each side a lesser kennel, either for hounds that are drafted off, hounds that are sick or lame, or for any other purpose occasion may require. At the back of these (as they should be but half the depth of the two great kennels) will be recesses for coals and other necessaries for the use of the kennel; and in the rear a small erection for the reception of bitches during a certain season of indication; as well as for others with their whelps.

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The floor of each lodging-room should be bricked, and sloped on both sides to a gutter in the centre, with a proper fall to carry off the water, that when washed they may be the sooner dry. Water should never be suffered to stand by a defect in the paving of the floor; for as warmth is in the greatest degree necessary to hounds after work, so damps are proportionally prejudicial. The floors of the inner courts, like those of the lodging-rooms, should be bricked and sloped towards the centre, and a channel of water conveyed by a leaden-pipe ought to run occasionally through the middle of them. The benches, which must be open lattice-work to let the urine pass, should have hinges and hooks in the wall, that they may fold up for the greater convenience of washing the kennel; they should also be made very low, that hounds when tired may have no difficulty in jumping up, or at any time be able to creep under.

The above may be properly considered a description of Mr. Beckford's, originally built from a plan of his own, and intended at first for a pack of beagles; but being too small he was under the necessity of making additions, which he thus describes. The rest of the kennel consists of a large court in front, which is also bricked, having a grass court adjoining, and a little brook running through the middle of it. The earth that was taken out of it is thrown up into a mount, where the hounds in summer delight to sit. This court is planted round with trees, and has, besides, a lime-tree and some horse chesnut-trees near the middle of it for the sake of shade. A high pale incloses the whole; part of which to the height of about four feet is close; the other open, the interstices being about two inches wide. The grass court is pitched near the paling, to prevent the hounds from scratching out; and the posts fixed in the courts are objects of attraction for the urinary evacuation, which is done to save the trees, to which the excrementitious salts are prejudicial.

At the back of the kennel is a house, thatched and furzed upon the sides, big enough to contain, at least, a load of straw; as well as a pit to receive the dung, and a gallows for the flesh. The latter should have a thatched roof, and a circular board at its posts to prevent the easy access of vermin. A piece of enclosed ground adjoining the kennel would be an additional convenience, as it would afford opportunity to receive such dog-horses as may happen to be brought alive; it being but a dangerous experiment to turn out such with horses in a healthy state. The hounds may also be brought to the same spot to empty themselves

selves after they have been fed; they may be better viewed so than in the kennel, and the draft more conveniently made for hunting the next day.

Admitting the kennel to have been constructed with experimental circumspection, and replete with every requisite convenience; the internal management of the pack becomes matter of serious consideration upon which the very success and celebrity of the establishment most materially depend. The feeder should be of indefatigable industry, strict sobriety, great humanity, invariable punctuality, personal fidelity, and a strict attention to the business in which he is engaged; as upon the consistent uniformity of his conduct, in a great measure, depend the excellence, the health, and preservation of the hounds. It is a practical maxim with every sportsman of experience, that no part of a hunting establishment goes on so well as where the master can condescend to interest himself a little in the superintendance of his own concerns; it is already demonstrated, that the sport in the field depends in no small degree upon the exquisite sensibility of smelling in the hound, and cleanliness is the surest means of keeping that sense in a state of perfection. The keeping of the kennel perfectly clean and free from every offensive effluvia, cannot be too forcibly inculcated and impressed upon the mind of the feeder; if he seems negligently disposed to deviate from which, he is but ill calculated for the office he has undertaken.

The mere ceremony of feeding, so far as boiling the meal, mixing the meal, and getting it ready at the hour agreed on, is a matter that the huntsman will, of course, take care never to have neglected; but there are other considerations of equal importance which become entitled to attention. Hounds, in any considerable body, cannot be properly fed by a single person; two (for a variety of reasons) are unavoidably necessary, and those two should be the huntsman and feeder, as hounds should be drafted and fed according to their state of flesh and condition. Some are much more voracious than others, and will require a greater portion of food; others look, and work as well with half the quantity: the eye of the huntsman should judiciously discriminate between the opposites, in want of which attention, the pack can never be expected of equal appearance. When any of the hounds are observed to be low in flesh, off their appetites, bad feeders, or kept under by the old and master hounds, it will be an act of prudence to draft them, and let them feed under less restraint. Young and impatient

patient feeders fall into the very common error of feeding hounds with their meat too hot; it is an injurious and prevalent practice, which should be completely abolished.

Hounds that are poorer than the rest, should be fed again, and it is the opinion of many that they cannot be fed too often; as well as that those hounds which become too fat, should be drafted off, and not permitted to fill themselves. All hounds, particularly young ones, should be often called over in the kennel; their names become more familiar to them, and it teaches them obedience; this lesson should be practised at the time of feeding: after which it is a good plan to give them a run in the adjacent airing-ground to empty themselves, and prevent an unnecessary accumulation of filth, and consequent effluvia in the kennel. It is a practice with some to shut up the hounds for two or three hours after they return from hunting before they are fed, a custom much more entitled to contempt than imitation: no plea can justify so ridiculous an adoption: reason points out the absurdity, and plainly evinces the propriety of having their provision ready for feeding immediately upon their return; their wants once gratified they enjoy their rest undisturbed, the best natural foundation for a renovation of strength, and repetition of labour.

During the summer months when hounds are not employed in the chase, they stand in need of but a small proportion of substantial food, compared to what is necessary in the regular routine of the hunting season; flesh may, during the hotter months, be given very sparingly; the less it is used, the less likelihood there will be of introducing that malignant visitor the mange amongst them. Plenty of vegetables, boiled in the copper, meat once a week, is an excellent mode of prevention; as is also the occasionally throwing in a pound or two of sulphur (in proportion to the number in kennel), particularly during the hot and idle season, when there is a greater tendency in the blood to morbidity, particularly to cutaneous diseases.

Many enquiries have been occasionally made, and various opinions promulgated respecting the best, cheapest, and most nutritious food for the support of hounds in general; but the result of experience seems to have justified a preponderating opinion in favour of occasional changes according to the progressive change of seasons, and the different degrees of work; without adhering too closely to one invariable mode, unassisted by such deviations as circum-

stances may render not only proper and prudent, but in some situations unavoidable. Horse-flesh, sheeps-trotters, raspings, greaves, bullocks-paunches (in a scarcity of flesh), oatmeal, and barley-meal, constitute the principal articles upon which hounds are known to subsist; although they are differently prepared and differently administered according to the judgment, experience, whim, or caprice of the parties concerned. It is, however, after a number of fair and impartial trials, almost universally admitted, in respect to the two meals, that they act much more advantageously when used in a mixed state of nearly equal proportions, than when either is given entirely alone.

Mr. Beckford has told us, that his feeder, who was a good one, and of much experience, mixed the meal (that is of oats and barley) in equal quantities; that he boiled the oatmeal for half an hour, then put out the fire, adding the barley-meal, and mixing both together. His reason for boiling one and not the other was, that boiling made the oatmeal thick, and the barley-meal thin; and that when from necessity, or circumstances, he fed with the latter only, he did not put it into the copper at all, but mixed it up with the scalding liquor, in a proper tub, or hogshead kept for the purpose. There are many little things within the department of the feeder, which, if neglected, become sometimes of serious consequence. Nothing requires greater attention than the state of the bitches at all times; they should be instantly removed from the body of hounds upon the least indication of their going to heat, a few hours delay may prove the destruction of some of the best hounds in the kennel. After the return of the pack on a hunting-day, attentive observation should be made whether any have sustained injuries in the feet by thorns, flints, or other causes, in all which cases the proper remedies should be adopted without delay. Fomentations of warm pot-liquor, or bran and water, followed by a washing of cold vinegar, or a weak solution of salt in water, will speedily harden the surface and effect a cure.

Opinions are not always the same respecting the entrance of young hounds, but the majority are for entering them so soon as the season and circumstances will permit. The time must vary in different countries, and opposite situations; in corn countries it may not be possible to hunt till the corn is cut and carried; in grass and pasture countries the field may be taken sooner, and in the woodlands so soon as the game is sufficiently matured to stand before the hounds. Hunting so early, though useful to the young, is considered prejudicial to the old hounds;

hounds; it is therefore prudent to reserve some of the steadiest to enter the young hounds with, carefully selecting the staunchest as the most likely to set them a good example. Not one of these so selected should be skirters; but, on the contrary, fair-hunting, bottomed, and seasoned hounds, such as enjoy their scent, and that hunt closest on the line of it; some of them should be good finders, all should be steady, and well known to rely on each other.

By these salutary precautions the young hounds have the advantages of the best instructions, and two evils are prevented which would necessarily ensue were they entered with the body of the pack; one, that of corrupting, leading astray, and getting into scrapes, such as are not much wiser than themselves; and the other, that of occasioning much flogging and rateing, which always shies and interrupts the hunting of an old hound; who having derived sagacity from experience, is not fond of trusting himself in the way of an enraged whipper-in who he well knows can inflict punishment with severity, as well as with injustice. Where the establishment is upon an extensive scale, and hounds enough are kept to form two occasional packs, or to hunt four days a week in the season, it is, beyond a doubt, the best to air them separately; or, if the old and young are taken out together, the latter had better be in couples, as they are then more easily reduced to subjection. Young hounds are always ripe for any kind of mischief, and the old ones, from long rest and idleness, may be well disposed to join in it; exclusive of which joint tendency to riot and rebellion, should they happen to break away from the huntsman, and in different directions, the whipper-in is generally too ill-mounted at this season of the year to head, and bring them back.

Mr. Beckford advises no such risk to be run; and recites an instance of his own hounds being nearly spoiled by the mere accident of a horse's falling; the whipper-in was thrown from his horse; the horse ran away, and the whole pack followed: a flock of sheep which were at a little distance took fright, began to run, and the hounds pursued them. The most vicious set on the rest, and several sheep were soon pulled down and killed; and he mentions the transaction to shew what caution is necessary when hounds are idle; for though the fall of the horse was not to be attributed to any fault of the man, yet he observes, had the old hounds been taken out by themselves, or had all the young ones been in couples, it is probable so common an accident might

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not have produced so extraordinary an effect. It is admitted a great error to keep too many hounds; Mr. Somervile judiciously terms it "a useless incumbrance;" for it is not so material what the number is, as it is that the whole should be steady, and as nearly as possible equally matched for speed.

When young hounds are sufficiently reconciled to the kennel, know the huntsman, and attend to their names, they should be occasionally put into couples, and walked out where they may be accustomed to the sight of sheep; this may be done at first with proper persons on foot, as young hounds are exceedingly awkward at their initiation, but soon become subservient enough to follow a horse. When they have been repeatedly walked out in this way, and sheep prove no longer a novelty, a few may be uncoupled at one time, and a few at another, that those who transgress in attempting to run after them, may undergo immediate correction. Instantaneous reproaches and vehement exclamations of "ware sheep" will, most probably, restrain them without the whip, the less which is used the better; by persevering care and rigid attention they are soon reduced to obedience, and become conscious of their error; but if once they obtain a victory and taste the blood, much severity must ensue before there is a chance of reclaiming them.

Various means are resorted to for breaking incorrigible offenders of this description; some endeavour to break them by coupling them to a ram, but Mr. Beckford observes, that is breaking them with a vengeance, and says they had better be hanged; justifying his opinion by the applicable introduction of the following fact:—"A late lord of his acquaintance, who had heard of this method, and whose whole pack had been often guilty of killing sheep, determined to punish them, and to that intent put the largest ram he could find into his kennel. The men with their whips and voices, and the ram with his horns, soon put the whole kennel into confusion and dismay, the hounds and the ram being then left together. Meeting a friend soon after, "come," says his lordship, "come with me to the kennel, and see what rare sport the ram makes among the hounds; the old fellow lays about him stoutly, I assure you—egad! he trims them—there is not a dog dares look him in the face." His friend, who is a compassionate man, pitied the hounds exceedingly, and asked if he was not afraid that some of them might be spoiled: "No, d—n them," said he, "they deserve it, and let them suffer." On they went—all was quiet—they opened the

the kennel door, but neither ram or hound was to be seen. The ram by this time was not only *killed* but entirely *eaten,* and the hounds having completely *filled their bellies,* were retired to rest.

Paradoxical as it may seem to those unaccustomed to the vicissitudes, and unexpected changes in a dog-kennel; that it frequently happens, some such young hounds as are most riotous at first, turn out the best in the end. Of this some are so forcibly pre-possessed, that a gentleman firmly of this persuasion, complained seriously of a young pointer to a friend for whom he had received it, " that he was afraid it would never prove good from much, as it had *done no mischief.*" However, meeting the same person sometime after, he told him " the dog, he believed, would prove a good one at last."—" How so?" replied his friend, " it was but the other day you said he was good for nothing."— " True, but he has killed me *ninteen turkies* since that."

So soon as young hounds are reduced to a proper state of obedience, it is then time they should be brought to a scent, and none can be so proper as that which they are intended to hunt; this is the true and sporting-like mode of entrance, which will be the means of preventing much trouble in future. Many dogs, it is conjectured, like that scent best which they are first blooded to; this natural conclusion being drawn, it is a collateral confirmation of the previous suggestion, that it is palpably consistent and systematic to enter young hounds at the particular species of game they are destined to pursue. It was the opinion of a judicious and well-experienced sportsman, that the management of hounds was a regular system of education, from the first moment they were taken into the kennel, and that if sagacity is expected in a hound when he is old, the necessary inculcations must be carefully implanted in his youth; for as he is the most docile of all animals when young, so is he the most susceptible of bad habits, which are not easily to be shaken off.

When young hounds are taken out to air, it should be in such parts of the district as they are intended to hunt; by which they will acquire a knowledge of the country, and when at any time lost, or left behind, will the more easily find their way home. So soon as young hounds are industriously endeavouring to stoop for the scent, know when they are rated, and stop easily, they may then begin to be packed, but not too many at one time; nor till the body of the pack have been repeatedly out by themselves and got well into blood. It is also neces-

sary

sary to throw off the first day, where they may most expeditiously find; long rest makes all hounds riotous, and disappointment in the height of expectation, may induce them to do that, which, under different circumstances, they might not think of. At the commencement of a season, hounds should not be too full of flesh; after a dry summer the ground is generally hard, and dogs too fat are liable to be shaken in the shoulders by their own weight.

The medical management of the hounds in kennel, is entirely regulated by the judgment of those by whom they are superintended; some there are who make it an invariable rule to bleed the whole twice a year, others who never bleed unless they evidently require it. Mr. Beckford (who seems to have acted systematically, and to have always advanced good sound reasoning to justify his proceedings), has acknowledged it to have been long a custom in his kennel to physic the pack twice a year; after they leave off hunting, and before they begin. He observes, it is then given in hot weather, and at an idle time; it removes obstructions and cools their bodies, which must, of course, be of service to them, and contribute to health. Whenever physic is administered, he prefers it in balls, because it is more easy to give it in that manner, and there is a palpable certainty of its being taken; which are remarks well worthy recollection. The proper proportions of the different ingredients for the preparation of these balls, will be found under the heads of Distemper and Disease at the conclusion of the work.

P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx.^t J. Scott Sculp.^t

SETTER.

ENGLISH SETTER.

THE dog passing under this denomination is a species of pointer originally produced by a commixture between the Spanish pointer and the larger breed of the English spaniel; which, by careful cultivation, has attained a considerable degree of estimation and celebrity, as well for its figure as its qualifications. The setting-dog is, undoubtedly, in respect to natural formation and effect, equally beautiful and attracting with any of the canine species; there is an elegant uniformity of figure, shape, make, and speed; a pleasing variegation in colour (as yellow or brown pied); an inexpressible diffidence and solicitation of notice, accompanied by an aspect of affability, humility, and an anticipation of gratitude far beyond the power of the pen to depict, or the pencil to delineate.

The sporting department of the setter in the field, precisely corresponds with the pursuits and propensities of the pointer, but with this single variation; that, admitting their olfactory sensations to be equally exquisite, and that one can discover, and as expeditiously receive and enjoy the particles of scent (or in other word the effluvia of the game) as readily, and at an equal distance with the other; the difference of the sports in which they are individually employed, renders it necessary that one should effect upon his legs, what the other does by prostration upon the ground, in the very position from which the present appellation of "setting-dog" is derived. And these are neither more or less than the pure effect of sporting education; for, as in shooting with the pointer, the game is constantly expected to rise, so in the use of a setting-dog and net, the game is required to lie.

It is not unworthy of remark, that naturalists have assumed a greater degree of latitude in respect to the canine species, than in any other parts of the creation, where they have been less at a loss. The most eminent teachers of music strongly impress one forcible precept upon the minds of their pupils, which is,

"when

"when they accidentally deviate from the musical text in execution *never to stop*, because it will then inevitably appear they are inadequate to the task they have undertaken; when by *keeping on*, not one in fifty may know an error or mis-movement has taken place." Just so it seems to have been with speculative delineators of the canine race; where the origin, or pedigree of any distinct class, or peculiar kind could not be authentically ascertained, it appears to have been conveniently or accidentally forgotten. As with the pointer, so it is with the setter, the origin of either does not appear to be any where described, or by any writer attempted; but by the most respected authority (from whence information, instruction, and entertainment can be derived) we are told, "the hound, the setting-dog, and the terrier, are only one and the same race of dogs; for it has been remarked, that the same birth has produced setting-dogs, terriers, and hounds, though the hound-bitch had only access to one of the three dogs." This, it must be admitted, is a very bold assertion, and in most opinions will not be entitled (as a fact) to a general acceptation.

The most candid and probable state of the case seems precisely this, that although nature, in her outlines, has furnished the canine race with powerful instinctive properties, by which their propensities, their pleasures, their dislikes and attachments may be disclosed, and notwithstanding their olfactory sensations are extended very far beyond the same power in the human species, yet it is well known, much depends upon the means, mode, and manner of education; a suggestion fully confirmed a few years since with a quadruped of a different description, by the game-keeper of a certain baronet in the neighbourhood of Odiham, in Hampshire; who absolutely brought a full-grown pig to hunt the stubbles, quarter his ground, and point the birds in so high a style of excellence, as to obtain a considerable emolument by repeated displays of his ingenuity, patience, and perseverance.

Although the setting-dog is in general used merely for the purpose of taking partridges with the draw-net, yet they are sometimes brought into occasional use with the gun, and are equally applicable to that appropriation; except in turnips, French wheat, standing clover, ling, furze, or other covert where their sudden drop and point may not be so readily observed. They may be brought into the field about the same age as the pointer, and broke by the same means (which see); but as there may be some not perfectly satisfied with so concise a description, it may not be thought inapplicable to introduce, from a new edition of

of an old sporting work, the following more explicit instructions, without the most trifling animadversion upon their contents.

The writer (or compiler) has defined a setter to be "a dog trained up to the setting of partridges, &c. from a whelp, till he comes to perfection. That one must be pitched upon that has a perfect and good scent, and is naturally addicted to the hunting of fowl, and this dog may be either a land-spaniel, water-spaniel, or a mongrel, between both, or indeed shallow-flewed hound, tumbler, lurcher, or small bastard-mastiff, but none is better than the land-spaniel; he should be of a good nimble size, rather small than thick, and of a courageous mettle, which though not to be discerned, being very young, yet it may be very well known in a right breed, strong, lusty, and nimble rangers, of active feet, wanton tails, and busy nostrils."

"The choice of such a dog having been made, his instructions should begin at five months old, or six at the farthest. The first thing to be done is to make him attentive and familiar, and, the better to effect this, he should as much as can be, receive his food only from the hand of the person who is to hunt him; and, when it is necessary he should be corrected, it is better to be done by words than blows. When so far trained as to follow his master only, to know his frowns from his smiles, and smooth words from those of an opposite description, he should then be taught to couch and lie down close to the ground, first by laying him gently on the ground upon his belly, then crying "lie close," and rewarding, or chastizing him as he deserves. In the next place encourage him to advance in that position, but without raising either his body or head; which if he attempts to do, it must be patiently pressed down again till he submits, accompanying the action with an emphatic injunction, till, by a repetition, he becomes perfect in those lessons, and stands in need of no farther instructions in this part of the initiation.

"This done, he must be taught to lead in a string or line by the side, without being impatient and refractory, or straining his collar; after he is accustomed to which, he may be taken into the field, and have permission to range, but from the first moment must be kept in a strict obedience to command; that which may be the better and more lastingly inculcated a fault must never be committed, but correction must follow. Whenever he is

is observed to come upon the scent, or haunt of partridge (which may be known by his greater eagerness, the feathering of his stern and a whimpering tendency to open) he should then be mildly cautioned with "take heed"—"have a care," in such low vibrative tones as are the least likely to disturb the game; but if he, from impatient impetuosity, should either rush in, open to a bark, or spring the birds so that they escape, then he ought to undergo severe correction, to prevent the less likelihood of frequent repetition. When again thrown off it should be where there is a great probability of falling in with a covey, if he then recollects his former error and remains staunch, so that the birds are caught, he must be made conscious of his improvement by proportional encouragement."

In a publication of more recent date are the following remarks upon the same subject, where the writer judiciously observes—"That the setting-dog has more continual and intimate relations with man, than almost any other of the species; he hunts within his view, and almost under his hand; his master affords him pleasure, for the pleasure is mutual when the game is in the net; which being shewn to the dog, he is caressed if he has done right, corrected if he has done wrong; his joy in the first instance, or his remorse in the latter, are equally apparent, and in this mutual gratification is formed the very basis of reciprocal affection. When the setting-dog is yet young, but rendered docile by the application of the whip, he attends only to the voice of his master, and implicitly follows his injunctions conveyed by signs and signals; but as he is guided in the business he is pursuing, by a more acute and certain sensation than man can be, when age has given him sufficient experience, he does not always observe the same obedience, notwithstanding the habit he has acquired from inculcation. For example, if a partridge is wounded or winged, and continues to run, an old experienced dog coming upon the scent, becomes instantly disposed to pursue it; nor will, sometimes, the vociferous threats of his master produce any effect; thus then it should seem, he is conscious of rendering ultimate service even in the very act of disobedience, and the caresses which follow his success, serve to convince him he is right in occasionally deviating from the strict line of implicit subjection; by which it appears a prudent practice with intelligent sportsmen to attend most minutely to the initiation and regular breaking of young dogs, but to leave, in general, the persevering efforts of dogs to themselves."

It

It has been already observed, that the setter is in possession of a constitutional timidity, which induces him to dread the severity of correction, and of course to avoid the means of disgrace; fraught with this irritability, their treatment in the field becomes matter of judicious discrimination. Dogs of this description, perpetually alive to the fear of giving offence and incurring bodily punishment, lay claim to every little tender attention as well at home, as in the field; warm, hasty, impetuous sportsmen contribute not unfrequently to their own mortification and disappointment, for many dogs of this disposition corrected in passion, or beat with severity, are so completely overwhelmed with distress, or annihilated by fear, that they almost insensibly sink at the feet, and can be prevailed on to hunt no more, or what is sometimes the case, slink away home without the least chance whatever of being again induced to render farther assistance in the sport of the day. This is a circumstance so frequently occurring, that it evidently displays the absolute necessity for paying proper attention to the temper and disposition of the dog, that the mode of correction may be regulated accordingly.

There are very few young and eager dogs but what will, at times, accidentally break in upon birds, particularly when hunting down the wind; when such slight deviations occur, verbal reproof is preferable to bodily correction, unless he chases the birds when sprung, if which is the case, he should upon his return be moderately chastised with the whip, to prevent, if possible, a repetition of the fault in future. The setter, once accustomed to partridges, will also drop not only at every species of feathered game, but like the pointer at hares also, and as may be supposed, it is at first exceedingly difficult to prevent their pursuit of hares, more particularly if they happen to jump up unexpectedly before them, and at some distance from the company, who may then vociferate in vain for their return. This is a fault, from the growing prevalence of which, many are never without great severity broken; and it of course remains a rational doubt, whether it may not be better to take them occasionally to districts where hares are so plenty, that by incessantly seeing them, they may become weary of eternally pursuing them.

Upon a subject so universally known, and now, indeed, so generally followed as the sports of the field, it is rather remarkable, that the appellation of the same race of dogs should be different in various parts of the kingdom; more particularly as it is natural to conclude it one of the last points upon which there

could be a diversity of opinions. Sporting is carried on by the same rules, and regulated nearly in the same manner, from one extremity of the enlightened world to the other; and, as it is an art (in all its various branches) which has rapidly arrived at a certain degree of perfection, so it has been pursued by amateurs and devotees with greater avidity and enthusiasm, than those arts which display their improvements slowly, and derive their sources from more remote and fortuitous circumstances. It creates no surprize with the observant traveller to hear in Ireland, the pointer almost invariably called an English spaniel, as this, with a sportsman of that country might be considered only a slight deviation from the custom of this; but in the northern counties of England, where the shooting is so good, and the breed of dogs so excellent, it is not without considerable astonishment we hear pointers distinguished by the name of smooth spaniels, and setters by the denomination of rough spaniels. The real springing spaniel is with them termed a cocker, as the woodcock is there the only bird for which they are brought into use, consequently, but rarely to be seen in those districts; as for instance, in some of the northern country-towns, where from thirty to forty brace of setters and pointers are kept in good state and proper condition, not one brace of well-bred and well-broke springing-spaniels are to be found.

It is somewhat difficult to account for this particular and local misnomer in so general a subject as dogs in sporting use. The English springing-spaniel is of the most ancient notoriety; whereas the pointer (as before observed) seems to have no ascertainable origin whatever, but to have been brought into this country from Spain or Russia, and the breed very materially improved by repeated crosses of in-and-in with the fox-hound. The true well-bred spaniel is described in various books of natural history, which, with the mastiff, and bull-dog, are considered the undoubted natives of this country; from whence then has the before-mentioned misapplied term arisen, when the very dog to which the term belongs, at present exists in the highest state of sporting cultivation?

The writer in his excursions had opportunity to observe, there are but very few spaniels in Ireland, when placed in comparison with the numbers in this country; the reason is obvious, there is but a very slender proportion of covert when compared with our own, nor are there any pheasants to be found in a state of nature, although many experiments of expense and trouble have been

made

made to promote their propagation and preservation; which has, however, never been attended with the desired success, for there is no part of that country where they are found in a natural state as with us. Woodcocks they have in abundance, and these in the early part of the season are found by setters in the moors; in the more advanced and severe season they take to bushes, sedges, and hedge-rows, which are sometimes beat by boys and peasants provided for the occasion; in addition to which, it may be observed that setters are by no means bad dogs in covert of this kind, so that there is the less absolute need of spaniels.

Though the people of Ireland (speaking of the aggregate, the superior classes being every where nearly the same) do not directly accord with us in the denomination of their dogs; yet they have high and well-bred ones of both kinds, and are, in general, fair sportsmen and good shots. Most of their best dogs are broke in to snipes, in common with other birds of the game kind, nor does it ever make them less steady, or more disposed to rake or puzzle as is generally and erroneously supposed. The quails, with which Ireland so plentifully abounds, are much more likely to make them unsteady, as they will seldom rise till closely pressed upon. These little birds afford excellent diversion, and are in such plenty, that they, in a great measure, compensate for the scarcity of partridges so well known to exist in the pastured parts of that country. Quails are very strong on the wing, and so exceedingly rapid in motion, that it requires a very quick sight and steady shot to bring them to the ground. They live in the same manner as partridges, are easily tamed, are frequently caught in nets, and kept in cages for sale; they breed late, and are not fit to kill till late in September, or the beginning of October. Formerly they were known to have been much more common in England than at present, being now but rarely to be seen; in Ireland they are observed to abound most in corn-fields and stubbles, in which is plenty of a particular weed; whether that weed is not natural to this country, or that by the nicer cultivation of our lands it is annually destroyed, is not material, but certain it is these birds are more numerous there than with us.

The sporting gentlemen of Ireland are more partial to setters than pointers; and, probably, they are better adapted to that country. Setters, it is presumed, cover more ground than pointers; are not so liable to be foot-sore, and can bear the changes of weather much better than the latter, which they term the smooth spaniel. The fields in many parts of Ireland are large, very rugged, and stoney;

the rains sudden, sharp, severe, and driving, setters therefore particularly suit the country they go over; to this may be added the grouse-shooting, which is excellent, and it is a universally received opinion there, that this species of dogs only are equal to the fatigues of it. There is an erroneous opinion in circulation, that it is a disadvantage to setters, they cannot continue to hunt long without water; though it is perfectly well known to the most experienced sportsmen, they can endure heat, thirst, and fatigue as well, if not better than pointers; they are certainly more difficult to break, and when broke, are most apt to run wild and unsteady if not frequently hunted.

In most parts of the north of England, there appears to a stranger, upon an average, ten setters to one pointer, though, in most other parts, the pointer has decidedly a similar preference. There is, undoubtedly, a strong and judiciously improved breed of pointers, that the thickest heath does not tire, nor the wettest day weaken; but the prevalent opinion being in favour of setters for grouse-shooting, and wherever hardiness of foot and constitution is required, it is but reasonable to conclude, they are in some countries justly entitled to the preference. Of the intrinsic and attracting propensity of the setter, Somervile has not been unmindful, who in his "Field Sports" thus beautifully depicts his ability and execution:—

"When autumn smiles, all beauteous in decay,
And paints each chequer'd grove with various hues,
My setter ranges in the new-shorn fields,
His nose in air erect; from ridge to ridge
Panting he bounds, his quarter'd ground divides
In equal intervals, nor careless leaves
One inch untry'd. At length the tainted gales
His nostrils wide inhale; quick joy elates
His beating heart, which, aw'd by discipline
Severe, he dares not own, but cautious creeps,
Low-cowering, step by step, at last attains
His proper distance; there he stops at once,
And points with his instructive nose upon
The trembling prey. On wings of wind upborne
The floating net unfolded flies; then drops,
And the poor fluttering captives rise in vain.

P. Reinagle A.R.A. Pinx.t J. Scott Sculp.t

SPRINGER.

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SPRINGING SPANIEL.

THE race of dogs passing under the denomination of spaniels are of two kinds, one of which is considerably larger than the other, and are known by the appellation of the springing spaniel, as applicable to every kind of game in any country; the smaller is called the cocker, or cocking-spaniel, as being more adapted to covert and woodcock-shooting, to which they are more particularly appropriated, and by nature seem designed. The true English-bred springing-spaniel, differs but little in figure from the setter last described, except in size; varying only in a small degree, if any, from a red, yellow, or liver-colour and white, which seems to be the invariable external standard of this breed. They are nearly two-fifths less in height and strength than the setter; delicately formed, ears long, soft, and pliable, coat waving and silky, eyes and nose red or black, the tail somewhat bushy and pendulous, always in motion when actively employed.

From this description the cocker differs, having a shorter, more compact form, a rounder head, shorter nose, ears long (and the longer the more admired), the limbs short and strong, the coat more inclined to curl than the springers, is longer, particularly on the tail, which is generally truncated; colour, liver and white, red, red and white, black and white, all liver colour, and not unfrequently black, with tanned legs and muzzle. From the great similitude between some of these cockers and the small water-dog, both in figure and disposition, there is little doubt but they may have been originally produced by a cross between the springing-spaniel and the latter. Some of the largest and strongest of this description are very common in most parts of Sussex, and are called Sussex spaniels. The smallest spaniels passing under the denomination of cockers, is that peculiar breed in the possession and preservation of the Duke of Marlborough and his friends, these are invariably red and white, with very long ears, short noses, and black eyes; they are excellent and indefatigable, being in great

great estimation with those sportsmen who can become possessed of the breed. It is upon record how much that unfortunate monarch Charles the First was attached to spaniels, of which he had always favourites about him; and although they were supposed to be of the small, black, curly sort, which bear his name, they were much more likely to have been of the distinct breed of cockers, if judgment may be consistently formed from the pictures of Vandyke, in which they are introduced.

The large springing spaniel, and diminutive cocker, although they vary in size, differ but little in their qualifications, except that the former does not equal the latter in the rapidity of action; nor do they either seem to catch the scent so suddenly, or to enjoy it with the same ecstatic enthusiasm when found. The smaller spaniel has also the advantage of getting through the low bushy covert with much less difficulty than the larger spaniel, and in that particular department may probably not tire so soon, whatever may be the length and labour of the day. Spaniels of both descriptions are used as finders in coursing with greyhounds, and are eagerly indefatigable in their exertions to find and pursue a hare, as they are in search of winged game with the gun. From the time they are thrown off in the field, as a proof of the pleasure they feel in being employed, the tail is in perpetual motion (which is termed feathering), upon the increasing vibration of which, the experienced sportsman well knows when he is getting nearer to the object of attraction. The nearer he approaches the game he is in pursuit of, the more energetic he becomes in his endeavours to succeed; tremulative whimpers escape him as a matter of doubt; but the moment that doubt is dispelled, and the game found, his clamorous raptures break forth in full confirmation of the gratification he receives; and this proclamation may be so firmly relied on (though in the midst of the thickest covert), that the happy owner may exultingly boast, he is in possession of at least one faithful domestic who never tells a lie.

It being thus the impulsive principle of this sagacious and industrious animal, to give the most outrageous proof of extatic sensation upon finding, or even coming upon the scent, foot, or haunt of game; so it is his determined disposition never to relax in his perseverance till he has brought it to view. Hence the absolute necessity is inferred, for all young and inexperienced sportsmen who take the field with spaniels, not to be too tardy in their motions, but to let their agility keep pace with the incessant activity of their canine companions; without

without which they may expect to cover many a weary mile of ground in want of a successful shot. As it is the unchangeable nature of these dogs to spring, flush, or start all the game before them, and they pursue, without preference, hare, pheasant, partridge, woodcock, snipe, and quail, it becomes the more necessary to hunt them within gun-shot out of covert, and with bells or gingles on their collars within, if it be close or extensive, that they may be prevented from beating too wide, and out of call of the whistle of the dog-whip provided for their correction.

However spaniels may be occasionally engaged in other sports, they are, in general, considered much more applicable to shooting in covert, than to those pursuits in which the pointer or setter are more properly engaged; of which Somervile has furnished us with an emphatic remark in the following lines:—

> "But, if the shady woods my cares employ,
> In quest of feather'd game, my spaniels beat,
> Puzzling th' entangled copse; and from the brake
> Push forth the whirring pheasant; high in air
> He waves his varied plumes, stretching away
> With hasty wing. Soon, from th' uplifted tube,
> The mimic thunder bursts, the leaden death
> O'er takes him; and, with many a giddy whirl,
> To earth he falls, and at my feet expires."

Pheasant, and cock-shooting, being the sports to which the spaniel is more particularly appropriate, it becomes directly applicable to introduce the necessary description of both. The former, in its general acceptation, may be considered the most laborious, and the least entertaining, of field-sports, unless, in the plentiful preserves of Norfolk, Suffolk, and some few districts in other counties, where the large tracts of lofty woodlands and corresponding underwood contribute so materially to their annual increase and preservation. This sport is principally pursued with a brace or two of springing-spaniels, whose eager tongues, upon the slightest sense of scent, give instant notice of earnest preparation. Pointers of high spirit and great strength, hunted with a bell round their necks, are frequently instrumental to good sport and great success; but they must be fast goers, and once knowing the nature of the business, not too readily disposed to stop; if so, the bird by constant running, will frequently rise in the

the thickest and highest part of the covert, or at such a distance, that an open shot will be but seldom obtained, particularly in any country thin of game. Those, however, who wish to preserve well-bred and well-broke pointers in a state of unsullied excellence, will never accustom them to covert-hunting, but invariably make use of their spaniels in one of the sports for which they were so evidently intended.

Cock (or woodcock) shooting is of a different and most entertaining description, particularly in those countries where, during the season, a plenty for the sport can be found. The woodcock is a well-known bird of passage, and usually found in a greater or less degree about the third or last week of October in every year. Their autumnal arrival in this country is more or less protracted by the uncertainty of the wind and weather at that particular season; the east and north-east winds (with a foggy heavy atmosphere) bring them over in the greatest plenty. Upon their first arrival, they have the appearance of being nearly exhausted, and drop under the nearest offered protection to the sea-shore; high trees, hedge-rows, small copses, heath, tufts of bushes and brambles, are equally acceptable.

After rest, and such refreshment as the situations where they fall afford, they separate into smaller and smaller flights, till almost singly they explore their way into the countries more inland, and fall in such woods, coverts, copses, or shaws, as are most applicably attracting, or convenient to the distance of their preceding flight; regulating their future proceedings by the accommodation they find, or the nature of the country they are in. No one part of the coast is found to be more remarkable for their arrival in immense flights than another. Wales, Sussex, Norfolk, and to the extreme points of the north of Scotland, are, at different periods, supplied with equal plenty; in all, or either of which, eight or ten brace (immediately after a flight arrives) may sometimes be killed out of one covert in a morning, by a single gun.

The smaller breed of spaniels already mentioned under the denomination of cockers, are the sort more particularly appropriated to this kind of shooting; although both pointers and setters are occasionally brought into use, who make their point upon winding the bird, though, probably, not quite so staunch as to the more confirmed species, of which, in a certain degree, the woodcock (as well as the snipe) seems to partake. The woodcock, when flushed, rises heavily from

from the ground, and in an open glade of covert is so easily brought down, that even a moderate shot must be ashamed to miss; but when sprung in a lofty oaken, or beechen wood, he is obliged to tower almost perpendicularly above their tops before he can attain sufficient height to take his flight in a horizontal direction: and this kind of vermicular flight he makes with such rapidity (turning and twisting to avoid the trees), that it is almost impossible to seize a moment for even taking aim, with a tolerable probability of success. As partridge-shooting requires an almost systematic silence, so cock-shooting admits of the reverse; for the greater the noise, the greater the likelihood of success. Well-bred spaniels immediately quest so soon as they come upon hunt, as well as the moment a cock unexpectedly springs; this is the predominant and distinguishing trait of their utility, as it gives timely notice to every individual of the party, and affords sufficient opportunity for each to be prepared for a shot.

Sportsmen who enter into the true spirit of covert-shooting, and where cocks are plentifully to be found, seldom set out upon an adventure, without being previously provided with a marker excellently qualified for the purpose in which he is engaged. And an assistant of this description becomes the more necessary, as a cock will frequently suffer himself to be found, and shot at, four or five times in the same covert; and when absolutely obliged to leave it, will seem to sink beyond the outer fence, and gliding along a short distance almost close to the ground, will drop in some adjoining, or neighbouring ditch. Woodcocks are seen in this country till about the first, and sometimes the second week in March; this, however, depends entirely upon the openness or severity of the season; if the winter has been accompanied with long and sharp frosts, they suddenly disappear within a few hours (as by a kind of magical mystery), and none to be found, with sometimes a rare exception of a single disconsolate individual at, or near some warm or sheltered spring which has not been frozen. They are fullest in flesh, and most in condition, during the months of December and January to the middle of February, from which time, as the spring-sun gets warmer, they decline in weight, and si[illegible] the time of their departure.

Spaniels of both descriptions are brought into a kind of general use and domestic estimation. Their neat and uniform shape, their beautiful coats, their cleanly habits, their insinuating attention, incessant attendance, and faithful

 obedience

obedience insure them universal favour; but the sportsman feeling a double and superlative interest in their attachment and affection, loves them for their intrinsic merit, bestows the greatest pains and assiduity in training them for the field, and, when properly broke, and completely educated, he considers himself amply gratified by their ready services and indefatigable exertions in surmounting every difficulty that occurs in beating the various copses, brakes, covers, ditches, swamps, &c. in the pursuit of game. In addition to which accumulation of perfection, they seem to possess a degree of sagacity, sincerity, patience, fidelity, and gratitude, beyond any other of the species. What has constituted much surprize amongst sporting naturalists is, the singularity of a well-bred spaniel's refusing the bones from the table, of any game, he has been during its life so inexpressibly eager in the pursuit of; and equally so it is, if true what has been asserted, "that no sporting dog will flush woodcocks till inured to the scent and trained to the sport, which they then pursue with vehemence and transport, though they hunt pheasants and partridges by instinct." Now, that the dogs should not be fond of the bones of such birds as they are not by nature disposed to hunt, can excite no admiration; but why they should reject, and not care to eat any part of what is, apparently, their natural game, is not so easily accounted for, particularly since the sense and end of hunting seems to imply, that the chase pursued is to be eaten. Some dogs will not accept the bones, or devour the flesh of the coarse and more rancid water-fowls, and others will not touch the bones of any wild fowls whatever; it should therefore seem, that the spaniel may be said to possess the disinterested soul of the chase; that he madly pursues the object which cannot be reached by his limited powers, exultingly triumphs at seeing it brought from its aerial height by the instantaneous explosion of the thundering tube, revels while the vibrative motion of departing animation is perceptible, but leaves it untouched to him who may add to his sport the gratification of appetite.

The different races of the canine species are seemingly endowed with appertaining characteristics, and those of this country are generally admitted superior to the production of every other; as in swiftness, the greyhound; in speed and perseverance, the fox-hound; in steadiness and patient exertion, all other hounds and beagles; in defensive fortitude, the terrier; in sagacity, the setter; in activity, the spaniel; and, in an invincible and vindictive ardour, the bull-dog, whose spirit death only can subdue; as has been inhumanly proved (however savage the wretch who could make the trial) to decide a trifling wager at a bull-baiting in the

north

north of England, where an enthusiastic devotee, more merciless than the brute he tormented, cut off the four feet of his dog, having betted his money that the poor, maimed, and suffering animal should, between every additional amputation, attack the bull. The experiment, cruel and horrid beyond description, turned out as predicted, the dog continued to seize the bull with the same ferocity as before he was mutilated. A palpable instance of human depravity, in which man appears little better than a fiend, inflicting the most cruel and unmerited misery upon a faithful dependant, whose innate courage the intenseness of pain could neither soften or subdue. The superior and inherent qualities above described are certainly not to be equalled in other nations, and it is equally remarkable, as well as notoriously confirmed, that almost every kind of dog produced in Britain degenerates when transported to a different climate, in opposition to every art and endeavour that has, or can be adopted to prevent it.

Of all the different kinds of dogs, there are none possessing a greater proportion of universality, than those which inherit the original blood of the spaniel, least contaminated by other chance, or injudicious crosses; of which there are now such an infinity, that however they may pass under the general denomination of spaniels, there are but very few of the pure and unmixed breed to be obtained. Dogs of this kind are, in their domestic services, not to be exceeded; in their attachments they are inviolable; in their attention unwearied; in their supplicating assiduities incessant; and, in their more anxious, emulative, and exulting office of nocturnal protector of person or property, their zeal and energy has been equally above suspicion, or prostitution. Of their sagacity, fidelity, gratitude, and the wonderful extent of their retentive faculties, innumerable instances might be adduced, but such few will suffice as may produce conviction to those who have never had opportunity to witness occurrences seemingly calculated to justify the most obstinate incredulity.

The patient province of conductor to the blind, and the faithful care with which his steps are guided (midst the accumulating vicissitudes of indigence and wretchedness) by a poor, emaciated, and depressed, but contented dependent, through the most remote and obscure lanes, alleys, and passages of the metropolis, daily and hourly meets the eyes of the least inquisitive observer. Few there are who have not seen various objects in this unfortunate predicament, led by their dogs through the most populous streets, as well as the winding passages of

of different cities and towns to the spot where such have been individually accustomed to solicit charity from the benevolently disposed; and when at the approach of night, the fate of the day has been decided, the dog as faithfully conducts him to his dreary habitation, and gratefully receives as the reward of his diurnal service, the scanty pittance which wretchedness has to bestow.

The almost incredible avidity, penetration, and expedition with which dogs are known to return to their former homes, from places to which they have been sent, or carried in such a recluse way as not to retain a trace of the road, will ever continue to excite the greatest admiration. That fox and stag-hounds should possess this faculty is readily accounted for by the great scope of country they cover in the course of the chase; as well as the journies they travel from one kennel to another situate in different counties, although they belong to the same pack; but, that dogs of a more domestic description, who have seldom been far from home, should return from distant parts of the kingdom where they have never been before, to the place of their previous residence, is a circumstance not so easily reconciled even to the most ruminative comprehension.

A dog having been given, by a gentleman of Wivenhoe, to the captain of a collier, he took the dog on board his vessel, and landed with him at Sunderland; but soon after his arrival there the dog was missing, and in a very few days arrived at the residence of his old master in Essex. A still more extraordinary circumstance is upon record, of the late Colonel Hardy, who being sent for express to Bath, was accompanied by a favourite spaniel bitch in his chaise, which he never quitted till his arrival there; after remaining there four days, he accidentally left his spaniel behind, and returned to his residence at Springfield, in Essex, with equal expedition: where, in three days after, his faithful and steady adherent arrived also, notwithstanding the distance between that place and Bath is 140 miles, and she had to explore her way through London, to which she had never been but in her passage to Bath, and then within the confines of a close carriage.

Dr. Beattie, in one of his elegant essays, relates a transaction within his own knowledge, of a gentleman's life being saved (who fell beneath the ice) by his dog going in search of assistance, and almost forcibly dragging a farmer to the scene of anxiety and expectation. Mr. Valliant feelingly describes the loss of

of a bitch during his travels in Africa; when after repeatedly firing his gun, and every fruitless search for her, he dispatched one of his attendants to return by the way they had proceeded, when she was found at about two leagues distance, seated by the side of a chair and basket, which had dropped unperceived from the waggon; an instance of attentive fidelity, which must have proved fatal to the animal, either from hunger, or beasts of prey, had she not been luckily discovered.

In October, 1800, a young man going into a place of public entertainment at Paris was told, that his dog could not be permitted to enter, and he was accordingly left with the guard at the door. The young man had scarcely entered into the lobby, when his watch was stolen. He returned to the guard, and prayed that his dog might be admitted, as through his means he might be enabled to discover the thief; the dog was permitted to accompany his master, who, by signal, intimated to the animal what he had lost: the dog immediately set out in quest of the *strayed* article, and soon fastened on the thief, whose guilt, upon searching him, soon became apparent. The fellow proved an old offender, six watches were found in his pockets, which being laid before the dog, he most sagaciously selected his master's, took it in his mouth by the string, and bore it in safety to his master.

The well-known docility of the spaniel is such, that he may be taught to practice, with considerable dexterity, a variety of actions in imitation of his human preceptor; as to open a door fastened by a latch, or to ring a bell when desirous of admission. Faber mentions one belonging to a nobleman of the Medici family, who always attended at his master's table, took from him his plates, and brought him others; carried wine to him in a glass upon a salver, which it held in its mouth without spilling; the same dog would also hold the stirrup in his teeth, while its master was mounting his horse. Mr. Daniel, in his "Rural Sports," mentions his having formerly had a spaniel, which he gave to the honourable Mr. Greville, that, beyond the common tricks which dogs trained to fetch and carry exhibit, would bring the bottles of wine from the corner of the room to the table by the neck, with such care as never to break one, and was, in fact, the *boots* of the mess-room. The dancing-dogs which were originally displayed at Sadler's-Wells, and afterwards in various parts of the kingdom, were most curiously instructed; for, after storming a fort amidst the firing of guns, and the suffocating fumes of gun-powder, a deserter was introduced

troduced, who was shot for the offence and carried off as dead by his companions. Another feigned severe lameness, and shewed symptoms of extreme pain; when after a variety of well-affected distortions, he gradually recovered, and sported about amidst his canine companions with every possible demonstration of joy.

In 1792 a gentleman, who lived in Vere Street, Clare Market, went with his family to the pit of Drury Lane theatre, at about half-past five in the evening, leaving a small spaniel of king Charles's breed locked up in the dining-room, to prevent the chance of the dog's being lost in his absence. At eight o'clock the son opened the door, and the dog unperceived waiting his opportunity to pass out at the street-door, immediately made his way to the play-house, and found out his master, though the pit was unusually thronged, and his master seated near the centre. Dogs which are constitutionally active by day, and vigilant by night, if indulged with a life of indolence, and over-fed, become so habitually heavy, and so incessantly slothful, that they seem insensible to every pleasure or pursuit except eating and sleeping; their sleep, which is little more than a languid mode of existence, is almost perpetual, and accompanied with starts and whimpering barks, indicative of dreams of either pleasure or disquietude.

The whole species are naturally inclined to voracity, but are capable of enduring very long abstinence, of which there are innumerable well-authenticated instances upon record; in the "Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences," is the recital of a bitch, who having been forgotten in a country-house, lived *forty days* with no other nourishment than the wool of an old mattrass which she had torn to pieces. The following is, perhaps, the most extraordinary fact of this description, that has ever issued from the press:—"In 1789, when preparations were making at St. Paul's for the reception of his majesty, a favourite spaniel-bitch followed its master up the dark stairs of the dome, when of a sudden it was missing, and both calling and whistling proved of no effect. Nine weeks after this (wanting only two days), some glaziers were at work in the cathedral, and distinctly heard some faint sounds amongst the timbers by which the dome was supported; thinking it might be some unfortunate human being, they tied a rope round a boy, and let him down near to the place from whence the noise came. At the bottom he found a dog lying on its side, the skeleton

of

of another dog, and an old shoe half eaten. The humanity of the boy led him to rescue the animal from its miserable situation, and it was drawn up immediately.

Wretchedly emaciated, and scarce able to stand, the workmen placed it in the church to live or die, as the book of fate might have predicted. This was about ten o'clock in the morning; some time after the dog was seen endeavouring to cross the street at the top of Ludgate Hill, but its weakness was so great that, unsupported by a wall, she could not accomplish it. The miserable appearance of the poor, weak, emaciated animal excited the compassion of a lad, who carried it over. By the aid of the houses she was enabled to reach Fleet Market, and over the two or three narrow crossings in its way to Holborn Bridge, and about eight o'clock in the evening she reached her master's house in Red Lion Street, Holborn, and laid herself down upon the steps at the door, having been *ten hours* in her journey from St. Paul's to that place. The condition of the exhausted animal was distressing beyond description, the eyes being so sunk in the head as to be scarce discernible, that the master could scarcely summon spirits to sooth and encourage his old faithful companion, who, when lost, was supposed to weigh *twenty pounds*, and now only weighed three pounds fourteen ounces; the first indication it gave of knowing its master, was by wagging her tail when he mentioned her name of Phillis; for a long time it was unable to take food spontaneously, and was kept alive solely by the sustenance received from its mistress, who used to feed it regularly with a tea-spoon.

The first suggestion naturally presenting itself, is the seeming impossibility of the subject's existence for so long a space as nine weeks without food. This was not the case; when lost she was with young, and near the time of bringing forth, this circumstance of parturition certainly took place in the dome of St. Paul's; for, as no vestige of offspring was to be seen at the time of her deliverance, no doubt can be entertained of her having consumed them as food for her own preservation. The skeleton mentioned to have been seen near her at the time of her discovery, was supposed to have been the remains of a less fortunate adventurer, who had been killed (or starved) by a similar misfortune; and what renders the fate of Phillis the more extraordinary is, that what famine and a thousand accidents or vicissitudes could not do, was effected a short time after by the

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wheels of a coach, which unfortunately went over her body and instantaneously deprived her of existence. This brings to the memory of the writer a similar instance of fatality to one of the most beautiful, well-broke, and best qualified yellow-pied springing-spaniels in the kingdom; who being in his possession in the autumn of the year 1780, he then having temporary apartments next door but one to the Westminster lying-in hospital, in Bridge Street, for the convenience of professionally attending the hospital; a fire broke out at the intervening house about eleven at night, which raged so violently as to prevent the chance of more than personal safety; but when he had reached the street with faithful Ranger, his old and often proved sporting friend by his side, and saw the croud collecting, he, in the then distracted state of his mind, thought the dog would be inevitably lost, and presuming upon the probability of the fire's being extinguished without the destruction of the house, returned with the dog and locked him into the dining-room for safety (encountering, on his return, the flames and broken windows upon the landing-place) having, in a quarter of an hour after, the miserable mortification to see him dashing against the front windows, amidst the flames with which he was surrounded, and from whence he had no mode of extrication.

The following well-authenticated instance of a dog's sagacity, fidelity, and persevering patience is literally extracted from a recent publication of much celebrity:—" In crossing the mountain St. Gothard, near Ariola, the Chevalier Gaspard de Brandenburg and his servant were buried by an Avalanche; his dog, who escaped the heap of snow, did not quit the place where he had lost his master, which was fortunately not far from the convent; the animal howled almost incessantly, ran to the convent frequently, and alternately returned; astonished at his repeated visits, the people of the house on the following morning obeyed his interceding indications and accompanied him to the spot, where, by scratching the snow with his utmost strength and persevering zeal, they were induced to conjecture the cause, and, by speedily removing the snow, the Chevalier and his servant were recovered unhurt, after thirty-six hours confinement beneath the snow, during which, they could distinctly hear the howling of the dog and the conversation of their deliverers. Sensible that to the fondness and sagacity of this creature he owed his life, the gentleman ordered, by his will, that he should be represented on his tomb with his dog; and at Zug, in the church of St. Oswald (where he was buried in 1728), they still shew the

the monument, and the effigy of this gentleman, with the dog lying at his feet."

That human credulity may be the more largely gratified, it becomes directly in point to introduce some particulars of a dog who would call, in an intelligible manner, for tea, coffee, chocolate, and other articles; and this account was communicated to the Royal Academy of France, by a man of no less importance than the celebrated Leibnitz, who attested that he himself heard him speak; and the French academicians add, that, unless they had received the testimony of so great a man as Leibnitz, they should scarcely have dared to repeat the circumstance. The dog was rather above the middle size, bore the appearance of a cross-bred large spaniel, and was the property of a Saxon peasant, whose child, a little boy, imagined that he perceived in the dog's voice an indistinct resemblance to certain words, and therefore absolutely undertook the voluntary task of teaching him to speak. To expedite this project, he spared neither time nor pains with his pupil, who was about three years old when this abstruse education commenced; and, at length, he made such a rapid progress in language, as to be able to articulate *thirty* words. It appeared, however, that the scholar was something of a truant, and did not very willingly exert his talents, being rather pressed into the service of literature, and it was, of course, necessary that the words should be repeatedly pronounced to him during each lesson, which he, by persevering endeavours, echoed from his preceptor. The fact is admitted to stand as thus stated, and the dog was brought forth near Zeitz, in Saxony.

It is not unworthy of remark, that histories, as well as miscellaneous productions, are more replete with proofs of fidelity in dogs, than of liberality or generosity amongst friends; many of these, however, may not have been authentic, but merely the effect of a fertile imagination, the effusions of fancy, or a too predominant predilection for the press. Divested, however, of allusions to doubts, it is for the honour of the species certain, that the two most ancient and estimable books now extant (the Scripture and Homer) have given proof of a particular regard and favourable attention to these animals. That of Toby is the more remarkable, because there seemed no palpable reason for taking notice of the dog, excepting the great humanity of the author. Homer's account of Ulysses' dog, Argus, is the most beautiful and pathetic that can be

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conceived, and an excellent proof of the old bard's benevolent and friendly disposition. Ulysses had left his dog at Ithaca when he embarked for Troy, and found him at his return, after twenty years absence (which, by the way, is not very unnatural, as instances are not unfrequent of dogs exceeding that age), which is thus described in a versified translation from Homer by Mr. Pope:—

"When wise Ulysses from his native coast
Long kept by wars, and long by tempests tost,
Arriv'd at last, poor, old, disguis'd, alone,
To all his friends, and ev'n his queen unknown;
Chang'd as he was, with age, and toils, and cares,
Furrow'd his rev'rend face, and white his hairs,
In his own palace doom'd to ask his bread,
Scorn'd by those slaves his former bounty fed,
Forgot of all his own domestic crew;
The faithful dog alone his rightful master knew!
Unfed, unhous'd, neglected, on the clay:
Like an old servant now cashier'd, he lay:
Touch'd with resentment of ungrateful man,
And longing to behold his ancient lord again.
Him, when he saw—he rose, and crawl'd to meet,
('Twas all he could), and fawned, and kiss'd his feet,
Seiz'd with dumb joy—then falling by his side,
Own'd his returning Lord—look'd up—and died.

Plutarch, in relating how the Athenians were obliged to abandon Athens in the time of Themistocles, deviates a little from the line of his history to describe the lamentable cries and howlings of the poor distressed dogs they left behind; and particularly mentions one, that followed his master across the sea to Salamis, where he died, and was honoured with a tomb by the Athenians, who gave the name of the *Dog's Grave* to that part of the island where he was buried. This respectful attention to the merits of the species, sufficiently demonstrates in what estimation they were held by the most polite and polished people in the world. A more modern instance of respect or gratitude to a dog has occurred in the neighbouring kingdom of Denmark, where

where the chief order (now called the order of the elephant) was instituted in memory of the fidelity of a dog (called Wild-brat) to one of their kings who had been deserted by his subjects; and who afterwards gave to the order this motto, or to this effect (which still remains), " Wild-brat was faithful."

To enumerate the aggregate of perfections appertaining to the spaniel, would be to go into a diffusive and superfluous field of repetition; it must, therefore, suffice to observe, that the general merits of the whole species seem to have formed an accumulation of excellence in this particular race, and that they are, by their domestic admirers, and sporting devotees, considered almost immaculate in possessing every possible virtue, without the contamination of a single vice. In a retrospective demonstration of which, might be adduced from various pens (and of some celebrity), diversified eulogiums upon faithful favourites of every description; from whence is selected the following

EPITAPH

ON A FAVOURITE SPANIEL,

BY THE LATE W. COWPER, ESQ.

" Though once a puppy, and though *Fop* by name,
Here moulders one whose bones some honour claim;
No sycophant, although of spaniel race;
And though no hound, a martyr to the chase.
Ye pheasants, rabbits, leverets rejoice,
Your haunts no longer echo to his voice,
This record of his fate, exulting view—
He died worn out with vain pursuit of you.
" Yes," the indignant shade of *Fop* replies,
" And worn with *vain pursuits*, man also dies."

TERRIER.

TERRIER.

THE terrier (among naturalists) like the pointer, seems to have been produced without any definable origin; but certain it is, the peculiar breed passing under this appellation must have been carefully cultivated and equally adapted to the particular sports they are so individually eager to pursue. It is but natural to conclude, the name of the terrier must have been derived from the avidity with which he takes the earth, particularly when in pursuit of his own game, and that is, vermin of every kind without distinction. To the fox, badger, pole-cat, weasel, rat, and even the poor domestic cat, the terrier is a most implacable enemy; in addition to which instinctive inveteracy, they naturally endeavour to find and pursue game with the same alacrity as those dogs more immediately appropriate to the sports of the field.

Terriers of the best blood, and most determined ferocity, are now, by the prevalence of fashion, bred of all colours, red, black (with tanned faces, flanks, feet, and legs), and brindled sandy; some few brown pied, white pied, and pure white; as well as one sort rough and wire-haired, the other soft, smooth, and delicate, the latter not much inferior in courage to the former, but the rough wire-haired breed is the most severe biter of the two. And this breed has been so enlarged, and repeatedly crossed in-and-in with the bull dog for the favourite sport of badger-baiting with the lower classes, that they are increased in size, strength, and stimulus for that particular purpose, since the more inhuman practice of bull-baiting has been upon the decline. The genuine and lesser breed of terrier is still preserved uncontaminate amongst the superior order of sportsmen, and constantly employed in a business to which his name, his size, his fortitude, persevering strength, and invincible ardour all become so characteristically and truly subservient, that he may justly be said "to labour cheerfully in his vocation:" this is in his emulous and exulting attendance

upon the fox-hounds, where like the most dignified and distinguished personage in a public procession, though *last*, he is not the *least* in consequence. Since the truly ecstatic and exhilarating sport of fox-hunting is so deservedly and universally popular in every county where it can be enjoyed, these sagacious, faithful, courageous little animals have become so high in estimation, that few stables of the independent are to be seen without them. The white pied bitch so beautifully represented in the print annexed, is the dam of a wonderful progeny, most of whom have been sold at high prices (seven recently for one and twenty guineas), and these are as true a breed of the small sort as any in England.

No fox-hunting establishment is ever considered complete without a brace of well-bred terriers in the field; and it is generally observed, that one is larger and stronger than the other, for this the reason is self-evident, that in a small earth where the former cannot enter, the other may. From the moment of throwing into covert with the hounds, these diminutives are incessant and indefatigable in their exertions to be up with, and near to, the busiest of the pack during their endeavours to find; and when once the clamorous volley has declared the game on foot, and the fleet pack are carrying the scent breast high at their utmost speed, these instinctive devotees to the sport are seldom far behind, and the first short check is sure to bring them in. When the fox is supposed to have run to earth, then the terrier is brought into use, it being his particular province to ascertain it; this is done by the terrier's taking the earth (which he does with the utmost eagerness), where, if the fox has entered, he attacks him under ground, and by the baying of one at the other, the ear will soon be informed whether the fox lays deep, or the earth is continued near the surface, by which those who are employed in digging him out, are enabled to proceed accordingly.

Proprietors of fox-hounds are exceedingly nice in their selection of terriers, and equally emulous upon the superiority of their qualifications; size is not so indispensible as strength, but invincible fortitude must be equal to both. The black, and black-tanned, or rough wire-haired pied are preferred, as those inclining to a reddish colour are sometimes in the clamour of the chase, or by juvenile sportsmen mistaken for, and halloo'd off as a fox. As frequent occasion will occur of again adverting to the terrier with hounds, it becomes applicable

applicable to take a more extended view of him in his diversified occupations. The great estimation he is held in at present from the prevalence of fashion, and the extent of his utility, has given him a universality of request and rendered the very name of terrier an object of anxious acceptance. In addition to their superior and more dignified office with the hounds, they become eminently useful in the inferior, but entertaining sports of badger-hunting, badger-baiting, rat-catching, vermin-killing, and other pursuits in which by their owners they are frequently employed.

Badger-hunting not being at all calculated to afford the least amusement to the superior classes, is only occasionally pursued by rustics of the lower order, as it can merely be enjoyed by moon-light; the badger, from his natural habit of seclusion, being seldom, if ever, to be found above ground by day. In this sport (if it can with consistency be termed so) those who pursue it are obliged to oppose art to cunning, and endeavour to obtain, by stratagem, what they find it impracticable to effect by strength. At a late hour in the evening, when the badger is supposed to have left his earth in search of food for his support, some of the party proceed to place a sack at length within the burrow, so invertingly constructed that the mouth of the sack directly corresponds with the mouth of the earth, in which position it is secured by means of a willow-hoop, which, from its singular pliability, is particularly adapted to the purpose. This part of the business being completed, the parties withdrawn from the spot, and the signal whistle given, their distant companions liberate and lay on the dogs, encouraging them through the neighbouring woods, coppices, shaws, and hedge-rows, which the badgers abroad no sooner find, than being instantly alarmed, and well knowing their inability to continue a state of warfare so much out of their own element, they naturally fly to their domestic earth for shelter; where arriving, oppressed with fear, and without an alternative, they rush into the sack; and being entangled by the rapidity with which they enter, and the twisting of the sack in their struggles to retreat, they are speedily secured by those who are fixed in waiting near the spot for the purpose.

If, by the ill-construction, deficient fastening, or accidental falling of the mouth of the sack (which is sometimes the case), he enters his earth with safety, digging him out is not only a very elaborate attempt, but with an uncertain termination; for the badger possessing instinctively much art, ingenuity,

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and perseverance, has generally formed his retreat with no small strength resulting from natural fortification: to render which the more probably tenable against the premeditated attacks of constant and implacable enemies, it is most frequently formed amongst the roots of some old oaken, or ash pollard, in the banks of moors, or rushy unfrequented ground; or underneath a hollow tree, from amidst the large and spreading roots of which, the burrows run in such remote and ramified directions, that his assailants are compelled by loss of time and labour to relinquish the pursuit and abandon the contest. It being the opinion of rustics in general, probably founded upon experience, that in a light and sandy soil, badgers by burrowing, can make way as fast from their pursuers, as the latter erroneously conceive they are gaining ground upon them; and to this, perhaps, it is owing, there are so many drawn battles between the pursuers and the pursued.

Badger-baiting, as it is most truly and emphatically called, is a sport of different description, and exceedingly common in every part of the country where they can be procured, in the way already described; but more particularly with butchers, and the lower orders of society in and round the metropolis, for whom a constant supply of badgers, from the woods of Essex, Kent, and Surry, are sure to be obtained. Indeed, to so great a pitch of celebrity had this sublime amusement some time since attained in the neighbourhood of Islington and Tottenham Court Road, that the magistrates most laudably exerted themselves to put an end to a business of brilliancy, which brought together an infinity of the most abandoned miscreants with their terriers and bull-dogs from every extremity of the town. To these dreadful and inhuman scenes of bear and badger-baiting with the most ferocious dogs, till the animals were quite exhausted, succeeded dog-fights, boxing-matches, and every species of the most incredible cruelty, under sanction of the knights of the cleaver; till, by the persevering efforts of the more humane inhabitants, and the spirited determination of the magistracy, the practice seems totally abolished, and likely to be buried in a much wished for oblivion.

Mr. Daniel, in his "Rural Sports," says, the baiting the badger with dogs, is a cruelty usually confined to the vicious and inhuman, who delight in seeing an innocent animal surrounded by its enemies, and which, although torn from his haunts, where his gallantry might possibly repel his assailants, and although oppressed

oppressed by numbers, defends himself from their combined attacks with wonderful activity and effect. He is so rapid in his motions, that the dogs are often desperately wounded on the first assault, and compelled to relinquish the contest. The looseness of the badger's skin, enables it to turn easily round when seized, and gives it an opportunity of wounding its adversaries in their most tender parts; and the thickness of the skin, added to the length and coarseness of the hair, defends it much from the bites of the dogs, no species of which will fight the badger so resolutely and fairly as terriers, of which there are two kinds, the one rough, short-legged, long-backed, very strong, and most commonly of a black or yellowish colour mixed with white; the other is smooth haired, and beautifully formed, having a shorter body, and more sprightly appearance, is generally of a reddish brown colour, or black with tanned legs; both these sorts are the determined foe of all the vermin kind, and in their encounter with the badger very frequently meet with severe treatment, which they sustain with great courage; and a thorough-bred, well-trained terrier often proves more than a match for his opponent.

The above writer recites, in the same work, a singular instance of ferocity and affection which occurred some years since, and which he thus authenticates. After a very severe burst of upwards of an hour, a fox was, by my own hounds, run to earth at Heney Dovehouse, near Sudbury, in Suffolk; the terriers were lost, but as the fox went to ground, in view of the headmost hounds, and it was the concluding day of the season, it was resolved to dig him, and two men from Sudbury brought two terriers for that purpose. After considerable labour the hunted fox was recovered and given to the hounds; whilst they were breaking the fox, one of the terriers slipt back into the earth and again laid; after more digging a bitch-fox was taken out, and the terrier killed two cubs in the earth; three others were saved from her fury, which were begged by the owner of the bitch, who said he should make her suckle them; this was laughed at as impossible, however the man was positive, and had the cubs; the bitch-fox was carried away and turned into an earth in another country. The terrier had behaved so well at earth, that I some days afterwards bought her, with the cubs she had fostered; the bitch continued regularly to suckle, and reared them until able to shift for themselves; and what adds to the singularity is, that the terrier's whelp was near five weeks old, and the cubs could but just see when this exchange of progeny took place. A circumstance nearly similar occurred at the Duke

of Richmond's, at Goodwood, in 1797, where five fox-cubs were nurtured and suckled by two foxhound-bitches.

As a remarkable instance of courage and fidelity in a terrier, the following is extracted from a periodical publication of 1796:—"One evening last month, as a young gentleman, of the name of Hardie, was passing through St. Andrew's Square, Glasgow, on his way home to his father's house, in Charlotte Street, he was stopped opposite the north-west corner of St. Andrew's church, by a man armed with a large stick, who seized Mr. Hardie by the breast, and striking him a violent blow on the head, desired him instantly to deliver his watch; as he was preparing to repeat the blow, a terrier belonging to Mr. Hardie sprung at him, and seized him by the throat, and Mr. Hardie, at the same moment, giving him a violent push, the fellow fell backwards and dropped his stick, which Mr. Hardie immediately seized and ran off; the terrier soon after followed him home, bearing in his teeth, as a trophy of his courage, nearly half the front of the man's waistcoat, in the lining of which half-a-guinea was found carefully sewed up. The waistcoat was of coarse woollen-stuff, with a black stripe, much worn and tattered, not at all corresponding with the elegance of the walking-stick, which had a gilt-head, and contained a handsome small sword."

The following, as a proof of the sagacity and maternal affection of a terrier-bitch, is literally copied from one of the Bath papers, where the fact is well authenticated:—"One day last week, a gentleman, in this neighbourhood, ordered one of the litter of four puppies to be thrown into a pail of water, which was done; it was kept down by a mop, and remained under water a considerable time, appearing to be dead; it was then thrown into the dust-tub, and covered with ashes. In two mornings after, the servant discovered that the bitch had still four puppies, and amongst them was the one which it was supposed had been effectually destroyed. It was conjectured, that in the course of a short time the dam had, unobserved, raked her whelp from the ashes, took it to her litter, and had, probably, by means of her own bodily warmth, and the gentle friction of her tongue, restored it to life. As a proof of its identity, the three others were black, and all dogs, this was black and white, the only bitch-whelp of the litter."

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As an instance of sagacity and recollection, the following has, most probably, never been exceeded. The writer, for more than twenty years past, has never been without a brace or brace and a half of terriers in possession; about three years since, having then a small cottage at Maidenhead Thicket, where he had horses getting into condition for the hunting season, two of his terriers (Doxy and Gipsey), sisters, were left with the horses and stable-lad in the country, Brusher, the son of Gipsey, returning with the writer to his residence near town. In about ten days after which, the dog was not to be found, and it was naturally concluded he had been made free with by some of the fraternity of canine free-booters with which the metropolis and its environs so plentifully abound; particularly as he is of the first blood, and one of the handsomest dogs in the kingdom. This happened on a Thursday, his loss was announced, and a reward offered in hand-bills the same day, but to no effect; on the Saturday following, every expectation of recovering the dog having nearly subsided, the writer made an excursion to the country to observe the improving state of his horses, where he was unexpectedly saluted by his trio of terriers; brusher having, it seems, undertaken spontaneously, and alone, a journey of thirty miles to pay a visit of compliment to his mother and aunt; and, upon the writer's return, it was proved the dog stopped more than an hour on the Thursday in his way down, and obtained fragments of food in the kitchen of the inn where it was always the custom of the owner and his family to take refreshment in their journies to and from town.

In the month of August preceding the above (the season being exceedingly sultry), the following inexplicable circumstance occurred with the same dog. Riding about the middle of the day, which was most intensely hot, on to Windsor by the way of Staines; just in passing the bridge by the powder-mills upon Howslow-heath, the dog being just at the heels of the horse, broke into the most miserable, distressing, and incessant howl, holding up at the same time, in seeming agony, his right fore-foot, as if he had sustained some severe injury in that part; which was by no means likely, it being upon a fine sward of grass. The writer instantly dismounting, proceeded to examine the part; in the midst of which the dog broke away with the same continued howl, and over the heath, till coming to a stream of water, he declined crossing it, and returning obliquely into the turnpike-road, continued at his utmost speed by all he met, and on to Bedfont, where he leaped into one parlour-window of the Spotted Dog,

and

and out at the other. The writer's coming immediately up in pursuit, the leaping in and out at the windows was communicated by Harvey (the landlord), his waiters, and ostlers, who were all in consternation, looking after what they called, and what the owner then really believed to be, "a *mad dog*."

It did not, however, prove to be so; the writer continued his enquiries of all he met, but to no purpose, the dog had quitted the road between Bedfont and Staines, nor could any trace of him be discovered. As a *mad dog* the writer described him, with his marks, collar, and other distinguishing traits, at the different turnpikes and gates he passed through in that neighbourhood, begging he might be killed if possible, without farther ceremony, to prevent a chance of mischief. The writer continued two days in the country, and in four days after his return to town, he received a letter from a gentleman at Hayes, in Middlesex, containing information, that a terrier of such a description having a collar, with the name and residence of the writer, had come upon his premises, and had been by his order taken care of, till the dog was sent for, or disowned; a messenger was instantly dispatched, and returned with the dog safe and well in the evening, and he is, at this moment, so in the presence of the writer. It has been asserted by rustics (probably without any proof whatever), that dogs sometimes encounter temporary phrenzy from a kind of tooth-ache, occasioned by running on a journey with their mouths open against the wind; whether the above singular circumstance originated in that cause, or a too great flux of blood to the brain from the increased circulation and violent heat of the weather, it has not been found possible to ascertain, the dog having never experienced a relapse, or been subject to any kind of fits whatever. Of this breed, or rather of this family, it may not be inapplicable to mention, that although the two bitches are not only sisters (but of one litter), Doxy will take the water as well as a water-spaniel; while neither Gipsey, or her rough son, Brusher, will take it at all, unless in pursuit of vermin by *scent*, or in *view*.

The great variety of sports to which the terrier becomes appropriate, presented a doubt in what way their propensities could be best depicted in the plate annexed; this has been now done to display the ferocity, the energy, and the determined perseverance of the individuals engaged, who having disturbed and caught scent of a pole-cat, are equally eager in the pursuit; which in the eye of the judicious and experienced sportsman, must lay claim to admiration. The

The two terriers nearest their game had caught *view*, which the mortified countenance of the white terrier demonstrates to have been as suddenly *lost*; whilst the third is anxiously and earnestly exerting all his powers to ascertain, *by scent*, the course of the chase. Determined as the terrier is in the pursuit of his object, and possessing the power of maintaining a certain pace for a long continuance, yet *speed* is not one of its most distinguishing properties, a trial of which was made against time for a considerable bet in 1794; where the dog, which was small, ran the first mile in *two* minutes, the second in *four*, the third in *six*, the fourth in *eight*, and the fifth and sixth in *eighteen* minutes; and afterwards ran the same distance (six miles) in *thirty-two* minutes.

As the badger is the animal by which the superior excellence of the terrier is proved, and so remarkable for the sport he affords to the unpolished and unrelenting multitude in every part of the country where it can be found; so an adequate description of its powers become the more necessary, that the nature of the conflict may be better understood. It is observed, by a writer of some celebrity, that no animal has suffered more from vulgar prejudices than the badger; harmless in his nature, he seems to have had the character of ferocity given to him, merely because he is a beast of great strength, and is furnished with strong teeth, as if formed to live by rapine; he is, however, found to be an animal perfectly inoffensive; he is charged with destroying lambs and rabbits, but roots, fruits, grass, insects, and frogs, are his food. Nature has denied the badger the speed requisite to escape its enemies by flight, but has supplied it with such weapons of defence that scarce any creature will venture to attack it; few animals will defend itself better when attacked, or bite harder when brought into action; it soon comes to bay, and fights with a most determined obstinacy; the badger is exceedingly tenacious of life, and, in some respects, almost invulnerable, yet a very moderate blow on the *snout* is mortal to him, as well as to the otter.

The length of the badger is usually about two feet six inches, exclusive of the tail, which is barely six inches long, and covered with long hairs, the same colour as those of the body; the weight from fifteen to thirty pounds. The eyes are very small, the ears short and rounded, the neck thick, and the shape of the body clumsy; which being covered with long coarse hairs, like bristles, adds to its awkward appearance; each hair next the root is of a dirty yellowish white, the middle is black, and the extremity grey, from whence arose the

simile "as grey as a badger." It has thirty-four teeth, six cutting, and two canine teeth in each jaw, the upper and lower have each five grinders; the nose, chin, and lower sides of the cheeks are white; each ear and eye is inclosed in a pyramidal bed of black, the base of which incloses the former; the point extends beyond the eye to the nose; the throat and under parts of the body are black; and this is a singularity peculiar to the badger, for all other animals have the hair of a lighter colour upon their bellies than upon their backs. The legs and feet are black, very short, and strong; each foot is composed of five toes, those on the fore-feet are armed with long claws, well adapted for digging its subterraneous habitation, where, although there is but one entrance from the surface, it forms several apartments, into a selected one of which, in the breeding season, grass is conveyed with the mouth to form a bed for its young. It confines itself to its earth during the day, seeking food only by night; and is so cleanly that it never submits to the excrementitious impulse of nature in its own burrow; and it is universally reported, as well as generally believed, the fox avails himself of this niceness to his own advantage, by rendering the spot offensively unhabitable to the badger, he soon secures uninterrupted possession himself. In action the badger, like the bear, treads entirely on his heel, which brings the belly almost in contact with the ground. Immediately below the tail, between that and the anus, there is a narrow transverse orifice, from whence a white substance continually exudes of a very fœtid smell; and this seems peculiar to the badger, and the hyæna.

Certain speculative writers have, with a greater attention to the fertility of invention, than any respect to truth, held forth a seemingly plausible description of two different and distinct kinds, under the denomination of dog and hog-badgers; the former asserted to have had feet resembling a dog, those of the latter *cloven*, exactly similar to those of the hog. To strengthen this hypothetical recital, they are said to subsist upon different kinds of food; that one eats with eagerness any kind of flesh and carrion as a dog, and the other roots, fruits, and vegetables as a hog. This may, however, with justice, be considered the effect of fiction, or of a too enlarged imagination, as the existence of only one sort of badger is admitted amongst us, with such trifling difference only in size, or gradational shades of colour as may happen from age, the peculiar soil of any particular county, or other such collateral circumstances as may, probably, add something to the size in one part of the kingdom, or vary a shade or two

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in the colour of another. And this opinion is confirmed not more by the investigation of the most accurate inquisitants, than by the remarks of Buffon, who unequivocally asserts, "that the badger not only admits of *no varieties*, but does not even approach to any other species."

This animal breeds but once a year, which, like the fox, is in the spring, producing four or five young at a time, and these, if taken young, may be easily tamed, will associate with dogs, and follow the person who feeds them. In this state they eat almost every thing that can be offered to them, sleep a great deal, by which means they get fat with but little food, and, for the same reason, they with ease can support hunger, not leaving (particularly when snow lies on the ground) their earths for four, five, or six days together. Their fat is in high estimation with rustics for ointments and salves. The skin, dressed with its hair on, is used for pistol-furniture, and the highlanders make their pendant-pouches of it; the hair is also made into brushes to soften and harmonize the shades in painting, which are called sweetening tools.

The pole-cat, which the terriers are in pursuit of in the plate annexed, is a species of vermin partaking, in some degree, of the figure and propensities of the martin and the ferret, or rather between both. It is smaller than one, and considerably larger than the other, is an inhabitant of low and lonely coverts not far distant from remote farm-houses, to the poultry, eggs, and dove-houses of which, they are constant and destructive enemies. The effluvia, or rather stench arising from their bodies, is so truly offensive, that it has, time immemorial, laid the foundation of the well-known proverbial expression of "stinking like a pole-cat."

The martin (or martern), another species of vermin equally attracting in their scent to fox-hounds and terriers, is also a native of similar coverts, inferior in size to the domestic cat, but longer in the body and neck, having a head and tail, in a great degree, corresponding in shape and make with the fox, but not so sharp pointed in the ears. This is the most beautiful, and most destructive to pheasants of the British beasts of prey; the martin is about eighteen inches long, the tail ten, or even twelve, if measured to the end, where it is thickest and darkest; the head is small and elegantly shaped; the eyes are lively, and all its motions agile and graceful; the back, sides, and tail, are covered with a fine thick

ash-coloured down at bottom, with long hair intermixed of a bright chesnut, tipt with black, giving a darkish brown appearance to the whole. The head is brown, with a slight tinge of red; the legs and upper side of the feet chocolate, and the under parts are covered with a thick down similar to the body; the feet are broad, the claws white, large, and sharp, but incapable of being dilated or sheathed at pleasure; they are, nevertheless, admirably calculated for climbing trees, in which they principally reside, and by ascending these preserve themselves from the pursuit of their enemies. The throat and breast are white, the belly of the same colour as the back, except in being a few shades lighter; but it is well known, amongst gamekeepers and woodmen, that martins vary in their colours (inclining more or less to ash colour), according to the age and gender, or to the season of the year in which they happen to be killed or taken.

These animals live upon poultry, game, and birds; most probably the casual food of the fox is taken by the martin also. As by their wonderful agility in climbing, they are a most perpetual and destructive enemy to pheasants; so by their scent they are frequently the cause of much mortifying disappointment to a numerous field of expectant sportsmen. For when found in covert amongst the bushes, the general burst of the finding hounds is as great as when a fox is unkenneled; and so continues, till being closely pressed, some friendly tree (probably clothed with ivy) suddenly terminates the deceptive chase.

The skin and excrements of the martin have an agreeable musky effluvia, free from that disgusting rankness which distinguishes the pole-cat, and some other species of the same genus; the fur is of some value, and much used to line or trim the gowns of magistracy. It is a confirmed inhabitant of the woods which it never leaves, and in winter frequently shelters itself in magpie-nests, breeds in the hollow of trees, and brings from four to six young ones at a time; they are brought forth with their eyes unopened, but soon arrive at a state of perfection; the female is furnished with very little milk for her size, but amply compensates for this defect in nature by bringing home eggs and live birds to her offspring, thus early initiating them in a life of carnage and plunder by which they are to subsist: so soon as the young are enabled to leave the nest, they are led by the dam through the woods, where the birds instinctively recognize their enemies, and fail not to attend them as they do the fox, with every mark of terror and aversion. When taken young, the martin is easily tamed, and soon

becomes familiar and playful; its attachment, however, is not to be relied on if it gets its liberty, for it will immediately avail itself of that liberation to regain its natural haunts, from whence no expectation need be entertained of its return. Mr. Daniel, in his "Rural Sports," mentions a farmer, of Terling, in Essex, who was famous for taming this animal, and who seldom had less than two; and that some few years since, one used to run tame about the kitchen of the Bald-Faced Stag Inn, on Epping-Forest.

The scent of the martin, as before observed, is remarkably sweet and attracting to hounds, and is, where they are plenty, certainly the best game that young fox-hounds or terriers can be entered at; as by running the thickest bushes it can get through, it induces the dogs to run covert with eagerness, which is of infinite service to them. They are, however, not to be found in any great plenty, except in well wooded countries, particularly in the large woods near Rayleigh, in Essex, and the fox-hunting parts of Hampshire. The domestic-cat turned wild from farm-houses, and remote cottages near to coverts, are supposed to do equal mischief to game, with many sorts of vermin naturally savage and bred in the woods; it being upon well-authenticated record, that in Moulsham Thrift, a large covert belonging to Sir H. St. John Mildmay, bart. sixteen of these animals were killed by a pack of fox-hounds in four days, when drawing for fox.

Terriers (as well as spaniels) are frequently used in rabbit-hunting and shooting, both which, in countries where they are plenty, is found excellent diversion: particularly in a few of those months when, by legislative restriction, the pursuit of better and more attractive game is prohibited. Terriers thus employed take covert with the eagerness and impetuosity of a fox-hound; encountering every obstacle, and surmounting every difficulty with an avidity beyond description. From their invariable propensity to hunting remote and sequestered spots, their energetic spirit, and invincible ferocity, as well as their instinctive susceptibility of scent, they are entitled to priority in all sports where those qualifications tend to constitute the aggregate of perfection.

The rabbit is well known to bear some degree of similitude to the hare in its formation, but no proportional nutritive exellence as a luxury for the table. They are of two kinds, denominated wild and domestic; the latter being produced in hutches, and bred exceedingly tame, lay no claim to sporting investigation. Those produced in a state of nature, and at all times and seasons ex-

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posed to the open elements, are much inferior in size, and many shades lighter in the colour of their fur than the hare, to whom they have an innate and invincible aversion; which, in fact, has every appearance of being instinctively reciprocal, as they are seldom or ever found in the constantly frequented purlieus of each other. This animal, in its originally wild and uncultivated state (not being part of, or appertaining to a warren), stands in a high degree of estimation upon the score of private property to those upon whose lands it may be found; but is considered of very little intrinsic value, and is, in general, killed, or taken, as a matter of casual and public right, by individuals of every class who happen sportingly to find them; not being included in any of the recent acts of parliament for the preservation of game, although they were originally included, under the denomination of "Conies," in most of the former records, which, though at present unrepealed, are seldom resorted to for legal information.

Warrens in which rabbits are propagated for the purposes of emolument, are protected by the laws in an equal degree with every other species of property whatever; as they are found by long experience, and the most accurate calculations, to prove the most prolific and most profitable animal of any that contributes to human subsistence. These warrens are common in different parts of the kingdom, but more particularly in Yorkshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire, by some of which the metropolis is supplied (during the proper seasons) for its almost incredible consumption. Rabbits are prolific beyond conception; they propagate so rapidly, and increase so largely, in parks, and upon many farms of a light soil, and woodland country, that they become exceedingly destructive by their numbers, and render occasional reduction, or extirpation, a matter of necessity upon the score of self-defence; in which case, rabbit-shooting becomes a most pleasing diversion. This sport is enjoyed with either terriers, or spaniels; a brace, or leash of which being turned into the bushes, hedge-rows, or underwood of small coverts, are hardly ever without a rabbit on foot; when by securing a favourable situation, the sport is almost incessant; but it must be a very quick and good shot to prove successful, for their motions are so rapid, their turns so short, and their jerking twists and throws so sudden, that they present but a very uncertain mark for a young, or inexperienced sportsman.

The natural history of the rabbit is, by no means, inapplicable, or unentertaining, particularly to the ruminative mind of rational or philosophic investigation. The antients animadverted largely upon their prolific powers, and descended to a series of multiplied proofs to justify and demonstrate facts, which would otherwise have never been believed. Pliny, in his remarks upon the fertility of animals, observes, that nature has been benignly kind to man, in causing those to be the most prolific, who are the least capable of doing mischief, and are the most profitable and nutritious for his food and support. The instances he produces are the pigeon and the rabbit; the former of which, he asserts, may increase, within the space of four years, to fourteen thousand, seven hundred, and sixty pigeons from a single pair; and that rabbits, who are known to begin breeding soon after they are six months old, and continue so to do for seven months in every year, will (if five young are allowed at each birth, and three of each five to be females), within the same space of four years, produce the astonishing number of four hundred, seventy-eight thousand, and sixty-two rabbits from the original single pair.

Under a progressive ratio so truly astonishing, much mischief to agriculture might be dreaded, but that so infinite an increase must be very materially checked by the constant public consumption, as well as by the counteracting arts of birds and beasts of prey, who must, of course, make considerable havoc amongst them. Notwithstanding these certain and invariable modes of reduction, it is recited, by both Pliny and Strabo, that their constant increase became such a nuisance to the inhabitants of the Balearic Islands, that they were absolutely obliged to solicit from Augustus the assistance of a military force for their extermination. The island of Minorca is reported, by different writers, to be singularly remarkable for its growth of rabbits, but with this mortifying addition, that instead of contributing as food to the support of the inhabitants, the flesh is so rank, that it can be rendered of no utility; and, to prevent the land from being over-run with them, the people are called upon by the governor to give their joint assistance two days in every year for their destruction.

In many parts of England, warrens are numerous, and well preserved, more particularly in Yorkshire, where they plentifully supply the markets of York, Hull, and other neighbouring towns; the skins are an article of considerable trade with

with the furriers at Stanford-bridge, and Malton, by whom they are consigned to the large hat-manufactories of Manchester and the metropolis. The flesh of the rabbit is almost universally acceptable, as it is remarkably nutritious, and easy of digestion; a proper food, therefore, for invalids and valetudinarians; but the most delicious and best flavoured are those bred wild in coverts, where the surrounding enclosures afford a choice of food, which does not happen in warrens, where neither turnips, nor any of the artificial grasses being sown, they have no alternative to one single kind of pasture. Warreners, in some counties, are called warren-farmers, whose premises are of great extent, and their rent from two to three and four hundred pounds a year; the stock upon which are so completely private property, that various clauses of numerous acts of parliament are still in force for their protection, and the summary punishment of offenders against the statutes in such case made and provided. These warren-farmers are always liable to considerable losses from epidemical disorders, which, in unfavourable seasons, frequently break out, and make dreadful havoc amongst the stock; and this morbidity is generally more fatal in a wet and dreary than in any other season.

A writer of recent date, makes mention of a Sussex gentleman, in the neighbourhood of Chichester, who has tried the experiment of cutting rabbits, and found it so very much increase their size, that, at six months old, when prepared for the spit, he has known many exceed six pounds and a half in weight. He describes it as a most profitable practice; the operation is performed when six or seven weeks old; and, he positively declares, that in three hundred he never lost one. In a perfect demonstration of the utility of this practice, he has frequently left one or two of a litter in their natural state, and has uniformly found that those which were cut, were, at seven or eight months old, nearly double the weight of the others, although partaking of exactly the same food, and all running about together. This has been likewise tried on an extensive warren, with the same prospect of success and utility; and it is an improvement well worth the early attention of those who are interested in the protection, increase, and bulk of so useful an animal.

In the northern parts of the kingdom, such land as is appropriated for warrens, produces an annual average rent of from ten to twelve shillings an acre, but then it contributes to the susten[ance] of sheep as well as rabbits; and experience has, at length, proved, that [t]here is an evident disadvantage in stocking a rich

a rich soil with rabbits, as a flush of grass, after a dry season, is found to throw them into a flux, which carries them off in great numbers. The formation of a warren requires a little consideration and circumspection; the rabbit, in making its burrow upon level ground, cannot proceed without some difficulty, as, in making the excavation, all the dislodged mould must be brought to the surface; on the contrary, if the establishment takes place on the side of a hill, the patient labourers proceed with greater energy, and much less chance of disappointment; for the declivity affording a ready fall for the earth as it appears upon the surface, it may be fairly termed work down hill, and there are, probably but few, if any, sandy or other light soiled hills, which would not be more profitable as a rabbit warren, than under any other course of husbandry whatever. The accuracy of taking stock upon warren-farms betwixt an incoming and outgoing tenant is matter of the utmost admiration; for those appointed to arbitrate, attend for some days the appearance of the rabbits at the mouths of the burrows, at the earliest dawn, and the dusk of the evening (as they shew themselves but little during the day), and the judgment formed from this ocular proof of the apparent number is said to be so well calculated, that, upon the destruction of many warrens, it has been established, beyond doubt or controversy, to have been made with a precision and equity almost incredible.

Notwithstanding the superficial similitude between the hare and the rabbit, yet nature has placed an insuperable bar to their perfect resemblance, in not allowing an intermixture, or even an association, to which they mutually discover the most invincible aversion. There is, likewise, a wide difference in their habits and their palpable propensities; the rabbit lives in holes in the earth, where it produces its young, and retires from the approach of impending danger; whilst the hare prefers the open fields, and solely relies upon its speed for safety. This innate precaution in the rabbit seems to imply a degree of sagacity superior to the hare, for the structure of both is nearly the same, and equally enables them to secure a retreat beneath the surface of the earth; both seem timid to the extreme, but the talents of one being weaker than those of the other, he contents himself with a seat upon the ground, where he remains perpetually exposed; while the rabbit, endowed with superior instinct, provides for himself an asylum in the earth. Their labour so industriously persevered in, seems unquestionably the effect of forecast, since domestic (or tame) rabbits never give themselves the trouble of digging; from the same forecast it may be fairly presumed it is, that domestic fowl are so exceedingly careless in the

the formation of their nests, being equally sheltered from the inconveniencies and dangers to which wild birds, as well as wild rabbits, are continually liable. By various experiments it is, at length, demonstrated, that when an attempt has been made to replenish a warren with domestic rabbits, both they and their offspring remain, like hares, upon the surface; and that they never begin to dig holes for their protection, until they have endured many hardships, and passed through several generations.

It has been observed by Doctor Darwin, in his remarks upon the instinct of animals, in giving notes of alarm to each other, that as rabbits cannot easily articulate sounds, and are formed into societies that live under ground, they have a very particular mode of making the communication. When impending danger is threatened, they thump repeatedly upon the earth, with one of their hind-feet, in such rapid succession, that it produces a vibrative sound capable of being heard at a considerable distance by animals near the surface; which would seem to bear the appearance of an artificial signal, not more from its singularity, than its aptness to the situation of the animals concerned. The life of the rabbit generally terminates in the eighth or ninth year; they begin to procreate at about six months old, and carry their young for thirty days. In consequence of the buck's inveterate aversion to the offspring, the doe frequently kindles in the most remote and sequestered spot she can select, preparing a receptacle for her young, composed of the fur plucked from her own body, and blades of dry grass, which, by warreners, is called rabbits-nest; in this she continues to suckle and superintend them at early morn, and late in the evening, for the first five or six weeks, at which time they are fully enabled to provide for themselves. During the first three weeks, the aperture of the burrow is carefully closed by the hind-feet of the dam, to prevent the chance of their being destroyed by vermin; but, from which time, the hole is daily more gradationally opened as they become enabled to get out and feed upon the grass, when the antipathy of the buck no longer exists, and they gradually glide into all the comforts of society.

Although, as has been before observed, the rabbit is not included in any of the late restrictive acts of the legislature for the killing, or the preservation of game; and are held in very trifling estimation upon the score of private property, when found singly in an i[illegible]ual state of liberty, and are killed without a fear, or chance of offence, or penalty; yet they have been thought of sufficient importance, [illegible] the representatives of the people to be

be included in the statutes, made for the special protection of private property (when preserved and propagated in a body), as some kind of preventative to the nocturnal depredations of the unprincipled and itinerant poacher; the following laws are still in force, and occasionally resorted to. By an act in the reign of James the First it was enacted, if any person shall, by night or by day, unlawfully enter into any park, or ground inclosed with a wall, pale, or hedge, and used for the keeping of conies, and unlawfully hunt, take, chase, or slay, any conies within such park, or ground, against the will of the owner, and shall be thereof convicted, at the suit of the king, or the party, at the assizes, or sessions, he shall suffer three months imprisonment, pay treble damages and costs to the party, to be assessed by the justices before whom he shall be convicted, and to find sureties for his good behaviour for seven years, or remain in prison till he does.

And, by a subsequent clause of the same statute, it is farther enacted, if any person, not having hereditaments of the value of forty pounds, or not worth two hundred pounds in goods, shall use any gun, bow, or cross-bow, to kill conies, or shall keep any engine, hayes, nets, ferrets, or coney-dogs, (except such as shall have grounds inclosed used for the keeping of conies producing the annual value of forty shillings if let); any person having hereditaments of the yearly value of one hundred pounds in fee, or for life, in his own right, or in the right of his wife, may lawfully take from such offender all such dogs or engines, and keep the same to his own use. And, by an act of Charles the Second, it is further enjoined, that any person killing, or taking in the night, any conies upon the borders of a warren, or other grounds lawfully used for the breeding and keeping of conies (unless such person be the owner of the soil, or lawful possessor of the ground whereupon such conies shall be killed, or be by him employed), shall, upon conviction, be subject to such satisfaction to the parties aggrieved as the justices shall award, and also pay to the overseers of the poor, a sum not exceeding ten shillings, or, in default thereof, to be committed to the house of correction for a term not exceeding a month.

In a different clause of the same act, it is farther recited, if any person shall, at any time, wrongfully enter into any warren, or ground lawfully used for keeping or breeding of conies, thou[illegible]h the same be not inclosed, and shall take, chase, or kill any conies, against th[illegible]f the owner, or occupier, not having lawful title so to do, and shall be there[illegible]f convicted within one month after such offence, by confession, or oath o[illegible]e witness, before one justice, he shall

shall yield to the party grieved treble damages and costs, and suffer three months' imprisonment, and so long after till he find sureties for his good behaviour. By an act of George the Third, it is enacted, that if any person shall enter into such warren, or grounds, in the night time, and take, or kill any coney, against the will of the owner, or occupier of the said ground, or shall be aiding and assisting therein, and be convicted at the assizes, he shall be transported for seven years, or suffer such other punishment, by whipping, fine, or imprisonment, as the court shall award. And, in a subsequent act, if any person being armed and disguised, shall appear in any warren or place where hares or conies are usually kept; or unlawfully rob any such warren; or shall, though not armed and disguised, rescue any person in custody for such offence, or procure any person to join him therein, he shall be guilty of felony without benefit of clergy.

Thus far upon the sports in which the terrier is occasionally engaged, and the various uses to which custom has rendered him appropriate; little instruction is requisite for the particular time or age at which dogs of this description may be entered at their game, whatever kind it may be; those well bred, become naturally addicted to pursuit, and stand in no need of strenuous excitement, or powerful instigation. Those who value their terriers will never prostitute their courage, and check their instinctive energy and fortitude, by permitting their young dogs to be entered at a badger, they have not the power, nor can they understand shifting like old ones, and if of high blood, would, most probably, go undauntedly up to the badger, and be terribly mangled, if not ruined; for which reason it is evidently most prudent to let them be entered at young foxes, or a less destructive species of vermin where it can be conveniently accomplished.

Amidst the great number of prosecutions and convictions which have been brought before magistrates, as well as into the courts of law (many of which will be introduced in the course of the work), the following is, perhaps, the only one where the terrier has been the instrument of unintentional mischief, pecuniary loss, and mental disquietude: Two gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Hampton having dined together with one of the keepers of Hampton-court Park, and the latter suspecting that some well-known poachers would attempt their depredations in the Park that evening, left the company rather unexpectedly, and likewise left behind him [illegible] favourite terrier, which was sleeping

under a chair in the room where they had dined. Upon the departure of the gentleman (the dog being then roused), they were requested by the landlord of the inn to leave the game-keeper's dog at his house in their way home; to this they readily consented, and in passing through a paddock belonging to Bushy-Park, the terrier leaped upon a hare in her form, and having killed it, one of the gentlemen immediately took it up, and placing it upon his walking-stick, proceeded with it across his shoulder, little likely to anticipate, by the force of imagination, what was to ensue. They had not proceeded far when they were met by one of the keepers of Bushy-Park, who, stimulated by what he thought a conscientious discharge of his duty, after taking their address, laid an information before a magistrate of the county of Middlesex; who (from the hare being found in the possession of one, aided by the other,) felt himself warranted in fining the former twenty, and the latter ten pounds, notwithstanding the keeper swore he left his dog behind him by accident, and the landlord of the inn corroborated the circumstance with his deposition, that "he requested the gentlemen to take the terrier along with them, which they had not the least previous intention of doing." The question naturally arising out of this singular case is, whether the result did not exceed the intentional spirit, if not the letter of the act, and constitute what a senator of much celebrity recently termed, "a vigour beyond the law?"

P. Reinagle A.R.A. pinx.t J. Scott sculp.

WATER DOG.

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THE particular breed of dog passing under this denomination, differs materially from the smaller sort, distinguished by the appellation of water-spaniel, which distinction will be more minutely explained in the course of the work, when we come to that head. The water-dog, of which an exact representation is given from the life, is of so little general use, that the breed is but little promoted, unless upon the sea-coast, and in such other situations as are most likely to render their qualifications and propensities of some utility; hence it is they are but seldom seen in, or near the metropolis, unless amongst the boat-men below bridge, and aboard coasting-vessels and colliers, where their various powers are sometimes applicably brought into action. These dogs are exceedingly singular in their appearance, and, most probably, derived their origin from the Greenland-dog, blended with some particular race of our own. These dogs are of different colours, though of the same shape and formation; and those who profess themselves connoisseurs in the art of canine discrimination, go so far as to fix the criterion of superiority and excellence upon the colour itself in the following way: The perfect black is affirmed to be the best and hardiest, the least susceptible of fatigue, hunger, and danger; the spotted (or pied) quickest of scent and sagacity; and the liver-coloured the most alert, and expeditious in swimming; these are, however, more probably, the prognostics of a fertile imagination, than the judicious assertions of well-founded observation; and, there is no doubt, but good dogs of this particular breed are to be obtained of every colour, provided the blood has not been contaminated by an accidental cross with those of an opposite description.

Although these dogs are to be seen of almost all colours, and equally well-bred, yet the jet-black, with white feet, stand the highest in estimation; the most uniform in shape and make, exceed in size the standard of mediocrity, and are strong in proportion to their formation. The head is rather round, the nose

short; the ears long, broad, and pendulous; his eyes full, lively, and solicitously attracting; his neck thick and short; his shoulders broad; his legs straight; his hind-quarters round and firm; his pasterns strong, and dew-clawed; his fore-feet long, but round, with his hair adhering to the body in natural, elastic, short curls, neither loose, long, or shaggy; the former being considered indicative of constitutional strength, the latter of bodily weakness, or hereditary debility.

As the objects of pursuit and attainment are much less numerous with the water-dog, than any other individual of the canine species, it is no matter of surprize that he should, even from infancy, be more susceptible of, and subservient to, inculcations of obedience, than dogs whose natural propensities and enjoyment of field-sports afford a variety of pleasures of a different description. Hence it is that the water-dog, even in puppy-hood, displays an eager desire to be employed in offices of domestic amusement, in proof of which eager propensity, a variety of such useful utensils as are generally deposited upon the floor frequently undergo speedy mutilation little short of destruction, if no friendly interposition of the family does not accidentally happen to ensue; shoes, clogs, pattens, carpets, and even mops and brooms are sometimes included in the vortex of confusion they, in their earlier months, so much delight in. It is during this inclination to bustle and business, that their scholastic inculcation should commence; when their aptitude to instruction, and ready tendency to obedience, will be found not only to go hand in hand with the attention bestowed, but very far exceed, in progress and proficiency, the most sanguine expectation.

To fetch and carry [...]e first lesson generally inculcated, as that is the most useful business of his future destination; and to this he is so naturally disposed, that there is little or no trouble in the elementary principles of his initiation. A glove flourished a little before his face, and over his nose, accompanied with the imitation of spitting upon it, will instantly excite his attention and avidity to action; when which is sufficiently roused, the glove may be thrown to a small distance, and this, upon first seizing, he may be inclined to play with, or to destroy in his own way; for which he must be mildly checked, and encouraged to bring the glove to the hand that threw it, by such words of tenderness and attraction as are best calculated to produce the effect. Doing this, he is to be caressed in proportion to the alacrity and obedience displayed in the execution;

execution; by a frequent repetition of which, occasionally using such reproofs as disobedience and non-compliance may render necessary, he will soon become a proficient in this preclusive part of his education. When he is arrived at an infallible subservience to the word of command in this domestic way, he may then be taken into a more extended field of action, where his powers of sagacity and scent may be brought to a gradational criterion of excellence and execution.

The better to do this, after he has been taught to fetch and carry sticks, or, in fact, any other article (of whose weight he is master) from behind hedges, or any other intervening obstacle beyond which it has been thrown to increase the difficulty; as well as accustomed to perform the same office, in waters of every depth and description, he may then be accustomed to tasks of different kind; the accomplishment of which is to depend upon the delicate organic structure of the nose, unassisted by the eye or the ear. It is but few months before young dogs of every description acquire, by scent, habit, or observation, a perfect knowledge of what is their master's property, but more particularly such parts of their dress, or habiliments, as they are accustomed to carry about them; when the dog under instruction has attained this age, he may be practised in the art of making more remote discoveries, by progressive efforts from one experiment to another.

This ceremony may be begun during casual walks in the fields, by dropping unobserved in the path, or near it, a ball, glove, stick, stone, or handkerchief, that the dog has previously seen in possession, and when at a short distance ordering him back, with certain words, as "hie back!"—"seek!"—"find!" &c. which he will soon learn to obey; and upon returning the short distance with the article so left, and being proportionally carressed for his persevering exertions, the distance may be so increased at every repetition of the experiment, that he will continue his assiduous researches for miles rather than return without the implicit execution of the commission he has been dispatched upon. Instances are numerous where dogs have been sent back and brought money from under stones; sticks, gloves, and handkerchiefs out of hedges, and hollow trees, where they have been privately deposited; and the writer has been repeatedly present where a dog of this description has frequently brought different kinds of coin (previously spit upon by the master) from dark rooms, and stair-cases, down

down which they have been thrown to demonstrate the power and incredible effect of the olfactory sensation.

In addition to these necessary, and, indeed, indispensible qualifications (or rather requisites), for the difficult sport he is intended to pursue; he must be encouraged, and taught to carry fowl dead or alive, and with so tender a mouth, that when he is brought into the kind of sport to which he becomes so peculiarly appropriate, he may bring his game to hand without breaking the flesh, or so much as bruising a feather. When he has been thus domestically instructed in every art appertaining to the nature of his future destination (the principal part of which is discovering the winged, or dead bird when shot, and bringing it to hand when found), he may then be brought into wet, swampy moors, and rushy fens, where water-fowl alone are expected to be seen; previous to which embarkation, he must have been made so truly obedient, and perfectly subservient to command, that he must be implicitly susceptible of every gentle vibrative whistle by which he is encouraged to proceed; as well as the most mild and tremulative aspiration of the voice by which his farther progress is intended to be instantaneously retarded, when there is a likelihood of the bird's getting upon wing out of shot. Of his subordinate situation he must be made so perfectly sensible, that he must, by the effect of early inculcation, and constant practice, learn to regulate his proceedings in the field, more by the emphatic silent motions of the master, than by the sound of words; which, at times, officiously obtruded, destroy every hope and expectation of sport and success.

Wild water-fowl, it is well known, from the dreary and remote spots where they are bred, as well as the obscure recesses to which they are accustomed, are more timid and tenacious than any other part of the feathered creation; this constitutional dread of injury from the approach of the human form, renders them so tremblingly alive to every sense of even the most distant probable danger, that they instantly take wing, and, with the utmost rapidity, endeavour to secure their safety by flight, from whatever trifling breeze, sound, echo, or communication by which they have been alarmed. Hence it is that this particular kind of sport requires more silence and prudent precaution than any other; of which the dog should, by dint of unremitting perseverance, be made as perfectly sensible as his master; this knowledge he soon acquires by practice, and seldom ranges out of shot in pursuit of his game, unless he is justified in so

doing

doing by motions made for that purpose. In a very short time after their initiation, they become so exceedingly fond of, and attached to the sport, that they exert their utmost sagacity in its promotion; few of those who are well-bred, and judiciously broke-in, but what are almost incredibly expert in having their eye upon the game so soon as it is sprung; and, upon the gun's being discharged, as eagerly encounter every difficulty, and surmount every obstacle to recover the bird, and bring it to hand.

As it has been before observed, that this very description of water-dog differs materially in size, as well as in the length and rigid elasticity of the coat, from the smaller and more delicate, as well as more domesticated breed under the denomination of the water-spaniel, it becomes only necessary to recite such distinguishing traits of his utility as are but little known to that part of the sporting world who are situate in the centrical and inland parts of the kingdom. Upon the sea-coast, the breed is principally propagated, where they are mostly brought into use, and held in the highest proportional estimation; but along the rocky shores, and dreadful declivities, beyond the junction of the Tweed with the sea at Berwick, the breed has derived an addition of strength from the experimental introduction of a cross with the Newfoundland dog, which has rendered them only adequate to the arduous difficulties and diurnal perils in which they are systematically engaged.

In the town before mentioned, as well as many others near the northern coast, there are numbers who support themselves and their families, during the greater part of the year, by means of industry but little conceived or comprehended in the more genial, and less sterile parts of the country. The necessitous and laborious class alluded to, feeling themselves but feebly interested in a soil producing so little, have long since directed their attention to a speculative employment from which alone a decent maintenance is derived, even amongst the dreary cliffs and precipices of the most tremendous rocks. These stupendous and inaccessible erections of nature, are so favourable to the propagation and constant increase of Soland geese, sea-gulls, and wild-fowl of every description, that the coast may be said to be almost covered with them from one extremity of the northern district to the other; of which the industrious natives have so long, and so successfully availed themselves, that it is become a regular staple traffic, in subservience to their necessities in the following way:—

Amidst

Amidst the various vacuities, clefts, and recesses with which these rocks abound, such are selected as from their situation at certain angles, points, and prominencies, hold forth the most promising prospect of success in the undertaking; in each of these, but not at a less distance than one quarter, or the third of a mile from each other, huts are so curiously constructed with sods, intermixed with loam, marl, and other applicable articles, as to form, when finished, a seeming part of the rock itself. To each hut is a door, a shelf within for the convenience of depositing provisions and ammunition; as well as three circular openings of four inches diameter (to the right, the left, and in the center), for the discovery of the fowl in their approach, and the subsequent discharge of the gun when they fortunately happen to veer within shot. This sport, if to the more happy and enlightened part of the world it may be termed so, seems to require a much greater degree of patience and philosophy than any other recreation or amusement in which the dog and gun are individually, or conjunctively concerned. In this sequestered situation, remote from every human eye and association, accompanied only by his faithful dog, the adventurer takes his seat as near as can be to the very dawn of day; well knowing every ray of hope and expectation, every flattering prospect of his day's success depends much more upon the fluctuating favour of the elements, than upon any energetic endeavours of his own.

As the business he is now engaged in partakes more of profit than of pleasure, he has a scrutinizing eye to the points in his favour, and seldom discharges his gun without a great probability of success; and knowing his emoluments are to be proportionally derived from the magnitude of the bird he brings down, all the smaller tribes (though within shot) are permitted to pass his marine observatory unmolested. The gannet, or Soland goose, and the larger kind of gull of all its varieties, are the principal objects to which he directs his attention. The former nearly corresponds in size and bodily substance with the tame goose, but that its wings are of much greater extent, being at their full growth six feet over, from the point of one wing to the extremity of the other. The bill is about six inches long, and straight almost to the point, but without nostrils; instead of which they are furnished with a kind of furrow that reaches almost to the end of the beak; from the corner of the mouth is a narrow slip of black bare skin that extends to the hind part of the head; beneath the skin is another, that like the pouch of the pelican, is dilatable, and of size sufficient to contain five or six entire herrings, which, in the breeding season,

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they carry in this manner to their young. These birds, which subsist entirely upon fish, chiefly resort to those uninhabited islands where their food is found in plenty, and where men seldom appear to disturb them.

The rocky shores of the north abound with them, but it is on the Bass Island, in the Firth of Edinburgh, where they are seen in the greatest abundance; here, it is affirmed by a writer of the first celebrity, "it is scarcely possible to walk without treading upon them; the flocks of birds upon the wing are so numerous, that they frequently darken the air like a cloud, and their noise is such, that it is not without difficulty two companions can hear each other in conversation." The gannet is a bird of passage; in winter it seeks the more southern coasts of Cornwall, hovering over the immense shoals of herrings and pilchards that then come down from the northern seas: its first re-appearance in the northern islands is in the beginning of spring, where it continues to breed till the end of the summer. But, in general, its motions are principally determined by the migrations of the incredible shoals of herrings that come pouring down at that season through the British Channel, and supply all Europe as well as this bird with their spoil. The gannet assiduously attends the shoal in their passage, keeps with them in their whole circuit round our island, and shares with our fishermen this exhaustless banquet; being exceedingly strong upon wing, it is but seldom compelled to reach the land, and continues constantly attendant upon its prey. The young of these birds are considered a dainty, and held in high estimation with the inhabitants of the north, where they command a price in proportion.

The gull, of all its various kinds, is very well known upon every sea-coast in the kingdom; in the environs of which they are seen with a slow [illegible]ng flight, hovering over lakes, rivers, and the borders of the ocean, in search of the smaller kinds of fish; in certain seasons they may also be observed in the neighbourhood of the sea, following the plough upon fallow land, and collecting such insects as the soil may afford, or chance throw in their way; and when the severity of the weather destroys these natural, and attracting allurements, they have recourse again to fish, carrion, and whatever else of a similar kind may present itself during their almost constant aërial excursion. Although gulls are seen in great plenty upon every part of the sea-coast, yet it is chiefly round our boldest rockiest shores that they are to be found in the greatest abundance; it

is amongst those inaccessible recesses, and dreadful precipices, that the gulls breed, and bring up their young, and it is in these places also, that millions upon millions of them may be heard screaming with the most discordant notes for most of the months in the year. Those who have been much accustomed to our coasts, well know there are two kinds of shores exceedingly different from each other; that which gradually slants down to the water with a gentle declivity, and that which rises with a precipitate boldness, and seems set as a bulwark to repel the threatened force of the invading deeps. It is to the latter of these that the whole tribe of the gull species instinctively resort; as the rocks afford an infinity of retreats for their young, and the neighbouring sea a profusion of food for their support and preservation.

These birds, like all others of the rapacious kind, lay but few eggs, and hence, in some particular parts, are (perhaps erroneously) thought to diminish; most of the species are of fishy flavour, and have black stringy flesh; yet the young are found better food, and of these (with several others of the penguin kind) the indigent inhabitants of our northern islands make their wretched banquets. They have been long used to no other food, and even this, in the barren regions of sterility, can be relished by those who are strangers to the comforts of other countries. The Soland geese, and the gulls of the larger description, are then the only fowl worthy the attention of the adventurer, whose hut, water-dog, and vocation in part, have been already described; for the more probable procuration of which, he continues silently seated, and most watchfully attentive to the apertures in the front, and sides of his hut, through which he can perceive the approach of his game in whatever direction it may appear. The guns in use for this service are seldom shorter than from five to six feet in the barrel, and with swan-shot are destructive to a great distance; upon their coming within reach of which, the gunner has his choice of the apertures for the advantage of better aim, and in moderate weather is so expert in the practice, that the "deadly level" is seldom made in vain.

Upon the discharge of the gun, the earnestly sagacious and impatient animal instantly sallies from the hut, and in one moment catching sight of the bird, and the direction in which it is falling, he rushes with the most incredible fortitude and impetuosity, through and over every obstacle that can present itself to the execution of his office; for whether the fowl falls dead amidst the infinite clefts,

clefts, recesses, and vacuities of the rock, or being only winged, or wounded, and falling in the water (at even a considerable distance from the land), it is the distinguished property of this dog never to recede till he has performed his task, and brought the object of his mission to the hand of his master. To those but little accustomed to scenes of this description, the successful completion of the business must appear a matter of absolute impracticability; and that the difficulties the poor patient persevering animal has to encounter (and sometimes repeatedly in a very short space of time), could never be surmounted; for after he has reached the bird, whether amidst the rocks, or in the sea, by the most direct line within his power, he cannot probably, when loaded with a bird of that weight and cumbrous length, return by the same track, but is under the necessity of exploring the most difficult, dangerous, and vermicular accesses before he can attain the precise spot of his destination, to which he is sure to return, although by means so circuitous and surprizing as to exceed all human credibility.

This regular routine of business with master and dog in their department, is only one part of the establishment, to which there are collateral agents for the completion of the whole. In favourable weather, and on fortunate days, the quick succession of shots, and rapid destruction of birds, soon form an accumulation which bids fair to fill the huts; this affords greater cause of expedition to the juvenile assistant (or assistants), whose business it is to convey the fowl so killed to the family (at the distance of two, three, or four miles, as it may be), who are all employed in picking the feathers, and collecting the down from the bodies of the birds as fast as they arrive. This, with even moderate success, keeps a wife and children almost perpetually engaged, and i[illegible] principal support of the family; as it is also the principal staple contributi[illegible]o that annually increasing infinity of feather-beds, down-pillows, and ot[illegible] articles of luxury, and domestic refinement, erroneously conceived to be de[illegible]ved from the plumage of the native goose alone; the produce of all which, fr[illegible]n one extremity of the kingdom to the other, would not furnish one-third of the annual demand. These pickings so industriously collected, are disposed of weekly to the wholesale dealers in the different neighbouring towns and villag[illegible]s, by whom they are cleaned and sweetened previous to their consignment to th[illegible] metropolis, and from thence to the more inland parts of the kingdom. Th[illegible]stinct kind of dog is to be seen, and the breed is more cultivated in the fenny parts of

 Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, as well as in the swampy parts of Lancashire, than in any other part of the country; but as their use and appropriation in those districts differ little, or none, from the services of the water-spaniel, farther description here would ultimately amount to a repetition.

GAME LAWS.

IN strict conformity with the original plan displayed in the prospectus of the work, it was previously determined to include every kind of useful information, and to advert occasionally to such collateral considerations, as might tend to give a degree of general uniformity to the whole; and to render it, of course, more worthy the attention of every practical sportsman, upon the great variety of subjects in which he becomes individually interested, and personally concerned. That the greater force may be given to which recollection, nothing can with more propriety be added to a delineation of the canine race, their qualifications, peculiar properties, and predominant propensities, than a concise review of, and a few applicable abstracts from, the laws now existing, and in force for their private protection and public preservation.

Dogs it seem, from every document it has been found possible to collect (from those who have ever condescended to make the species a subject of disquisition), were indiscriminately of no great value, or in any extravagant degree of estimation; till in the latter centuries, and more enlightened progress to national improvement, the sports of the field began to assume a more regular form, and gradationally to approach their present perfection. Dogs then in their original and uncultivated state, remained objects of very little attention till as they became more materially instrumental to the pleasures of mankind, they began to be thought proportionally worthy legislative attention, and are now, by laws enacted for that particular purpose, rendered of equal weight and value with any other article of domestic and private property.

It is, at the present moment, perfectly within the recollection of the writer, as well as thousands of his contemporaries, when dogs of every kind, whatever might be the breed, the value, or the qualifications, were almost publicly stolen,

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killed, and flayed with impunity, for the emolument arising from the sale of their skins, in compliance with the then fashionable rage for dog-skin shoes; which rendered it at that time, with the abandoned set of miscreants who pursued it, a most profitable depredation. In fact, to such an unprecedented, and unrelenting pitch of inhuman barbarity was this species of injury carried on, that the environs of the metropolis were covered in many places to so great a degree, with the offensive and putrified carcases above ground, that not only contagious diseases were dreaded in consequence, but, to stem the farther torrent of such insatiate cruelty, and to prevent the threatened progressive annihilation of the whole species, it became a matter of legislative consideration, when the following acts were established for that purpose.

By an early act of the present reign, it is enacted, that if any person shall steal any dog or dogs, of any kind or sort whatsoever, from the owner thereof, or from any person entrusted by the owner with such dog or dogs, or shall sell, buy, receive, harbour, detain, or keep any such dog or dogs, knowing the same to be stolen, every such offender being thereof convicted on the oath of one witness, or on his or her own confession before two justices, shall, for the first offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding thirty, nor less than twenty pounds, at the discretion of two such justices; together also with the charges previous to, and attending such conviction, to be ascertained by the justices before whom the conviction takes place. And in case such penalty shall not be forthwith paid, such justices shall commit the offender to the common goal, or house of correction, for a time not exceeding twelve, nor less than six calendar months, or until the aforesaid penalties and charges are completely discharged. And in case such offender shall be convicted of a second offence in the manner aforesaid, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty, nor less than thirty pounds, together with the additional charges of the prosecution as before described.

And upon non payment of these penalties, the justices are empowered, by the same act, to commit the offender to the common goal, or house of correction, there to remain for any time not exceeding eighteen, nor less than twelve months, or until the same shall be paid (one moiety of which penalties shall be paid to the person informing, and the other moiety to the poor of the parish where the offence shall have been committed); in failure of which, the said justices shall order the offender to be publicly whipped in the town wherein such

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goal or house of correction may be, between the hours of twelve and one of the clock in the day.

It is also further provided in the same act, that it shall be lawful for one justice, upon information made to him for that purpose, to grant a warrant to search for any dog or dogs stolen as aforesaid; and in case any such dog or the skin thereof shall be found, the said justice shall take and restore such dog or skin to its right owner; and the person in whose custody or possession such dog or skin shall be found (such person being privy to the said theft), shall be subject and liable to the like penalties and punishments as are inflicted on persons convicted of stealing any dog or dogs under this act. But if any person shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this act, he may appeal to the next general quarter-sessions, provided that, within four days after the cause of complaint shall arise, such appellant shall give fourteen days notice in writing of his intention to appeal, and the justices at such sessions shall hear and determine the appeal in a summary way, and award such costs as they shall think meet between the parties, which determination shall be final.

As various litigations have arisen, and suits have been decided in different courts, respecting unforeseen occurrences, or accidents, that have repeatedly happened, where serious injuries to individuals have been sustained, it may not be thought obtrusive or inapplicable to introduce such few shades of information upon the subject, as from legal decision and custom seem to have been sanctioned with the appellation of law. In the aggregate of experimental observation, it is considered a public nuisance to permit any mischievous dog to go loose and unmuzzled, to the danger or annoyance of the neighbours, or passengers, and the owner thereof may be indicted; and an action for damages sustained, will in such case also lie against the owner; but it is generally understood, upon a legal construction of Lord Raymond, and others, that such action cannot be brought against the owner of a dog for biting a person, unless the owner had notice given him of the dog's having bitten somebody at least once before.

An action, it is well known, will lie against any man for keeping a dog accustomed to bite sheep, provided it can be proved that the owner knew him to be guilty of such practice; and it is now, in the legal practice of the courts, generally

generally held, that the having killed or wounded sheep once before, is sufficient proof of the dog's having been so accustomed. If one man's dog falls upon the dog of another, the owner of the latter is justified in beating, but not in killing him, unless there is palpable danger of his own dog's being materially injured, and there is no chance of extricating him by any other way; for the loss of any man's dog (which may be considered the guard of his person and property) is a serious injury, and not to be effected without a very pressing and unavoidable necessity. And for a similar reason, if a dog go astray, and be detained by the person who has found, or taken him up (after he be demanded by the owner), an action will lie for the recovery of him, and the detainer of him will be liable to both damages and costs.

The laws thus seasonably enacted, not only in a great degree remedied the evil, but in a very few years so contributed to the increase of the species, that its number exceeded all former example; insomuch, that every cottager in the country, and almost every individual in the metropolis seemed to consider himself incomplete without an adherent of this description. In fact, to such an infinity had they arisen, particularly at a time when an alarm of the scarcity of provisions prevailed, that they once more became the subject of legislative deliberation; and after mature consideration, a trifling tax was introduced, and established, for the privilege of having them in possession, intended to operate in a two-fold degree; first, as a kind of voluntary contribution to the unavoidable exigencies of the state, and to the necessary collateral reduction of the most useless and troublesome part of the species, with which every town and village was so shamefully filled, that travellers frequently experienced much interruption from the clamorous barkings of yelping curs in every direction.

It is a maxim too universally known to be disputed, that few imposts are truly consonant to the majority of those upon whose pecuniary sensations they are intended to operate; this, however, proved an exception, at least with all the superior and considerate classes of society, who plainly perceived the indispensable necessity for a speedy reduction of the species; and so completely effectual was this parliamentary experiment, that within a month from the passing of the act, thousands were suspended by the neck, drowned, or by some means destroyed, in every part of the kingdom, from one extremity of the island to the other. The lower classes (particularly amongst the rustics) affected much discontent, loudly murmuring, with no small degree of vehemence, against the prohibition,

prohibition as a deprivation of their last domestic liberty; which opposition was but of a mere temporary duration, for the act so judiciously adopted being as rigidly enforced, it very rapidly surmounted the evil it was intended to subdue. The almost incredible increase and infinite number of the least useful part of the species having been thus seasonably reduced, sporting-dogs of superior distinction, from their contributing so much to the pleasures of the field, and their instrumental excitement to the salutary advantages of health, air, and exercise, as well as the general estimation they are held in by their owners, opened a fair field to the representatives of the people for a reconsideration of the subject, when they were thought worthy an enhanced revision of the original act, under which amended and improved, they are become very efficient objects of taxation, as will be readily conceived by an abstract from the acts annexed.

These in their aggregate, and now existing force enjoin, "that for every greyhound, pointer, setting-dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier, and for every dog of whatsoever description or denomination the same may be, where any person shall keep two or more dogs, the annual sum to be paid shall be *ten shillings* each."

And for any dog (not being a greyhound, pointer, hound, setting-dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier) kept by, or for the use of any person inhabiting a dwelling-house assessed to any of the duties on houses, windows, or lights, or on inhabited-houses, where one such dog, and no more, shall be kept by, or for the use of such person, *six shillings*. The said duties to be paid by the persons keeping, or for whose use the same shall be kept; but no dog (or rather whelp) to be liable to the duty till six months old. An additional clause is annexed, by which any person keeping hounds may compound for the pack at *thirty pounds*, by applying to the collector of the district.

Totally divested of these recent restrictions, in respect to dogs of certain defined descriptions, as appertaining to the reasons and circumstances of the times already explained; there are numerous other statutes still extant, and in full force, relative to those particular and distinct kinds, specifically appropriate to field-sports, and the pleasures of the chase. In fact, from a general review of, and minute examination into the voluminous codes respecting dogs and game, it should seem that sporting dogs alone bear any great influence, or idea

of intrinsic value in the eye of the law (with some few exceptions in respect to stealing or destroying in those recent acts already recited); and those commentators of the greatest professional celebrity, who have promulgated their remarks, have never hesitated to acknowledge, that these laws considered in the aggregate, from an inaccuracy in their original formation, inattention in their progress, or a misconstruction of the literal meaning and effect, have frequently proved inadequate to the purpose for which they were framed, and their intentional force fully frustrated, to the mortification of those who have presided in different courts for the due administration of impartial justice; and it is well known, and will be as readily admitted by practitioners of the first eminence, that innumerable and authentic instances may be extracted from books of record, where, from the loose, vague, or incautious wording of an act, the culprit has enjoyed ample room for extrication, and has escaped conviction. This is so exceedingly clear, that it requires but a few words in elucidation; whatever penal statute a prosecution is proceeded on, must be literally construed, and cannot by any legal, or equitable construction, be extended to other words, or dogs, beyond those individually specified, and enumerated in the act upon which the prosecutor founds his information.

In confirmation of a suggestion so truly necessary to be known, it becomes directly applicable to introduce a principal clause from the 5th of Anne, c. 14, s. 4. (which is the act most frequently resorted to upon those occasions) where it is expressly enacted, "that if any person not qualified, shall keep or use any greyhounds, setting-dogs, hays, lurchers, tunnels, or any other engines to kill and destroy the game, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one witness by the justice of peace where such offence is committed, he shall forfeit the sum of *five pounds*, one half to go to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress under the warrant of a justice; and for want of the means of distress, the offender shall be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and four months for every offence committed after; and any justice of the peace, or lord or lady of a manor, are allowed to take away any hare, or other game, and likewise any dogs, nets, or any other engines which shall be in the custody of any person not qualified to keep the same, to their own use;" as may game-keepers also, or, in fact, any other person, but the two latter are restrained from that power, unless they have first obtained a warrant for that purpose.

The

The better to enlighten and explain the verbal omission and ambiguous effect of the act alluded to, a few cases from the courts become directly in point to prove the uncertainty of the law, even in a regular and systematic mode of proceeding, upon causes expected to terminate in certain conviction. No stronger instance of this could possibly have occurred than in a case of Hooker against Wilks, where the action was brought under a plea of debt for the recovery of *thirty pounds* for using "a hound to destroy the game;" when after a verdict was pronounced for the plaintiff, the judgment was instantly arrested, and upon the following ground:—The above act of Anne not having the word *hound* included, and the words "other engines" coming immediately after "nets," are applicable only to inanimate things; and this being a penal law, will not admit of an extended construction; it was therefore deemed impossible to convict any offender in a penalty under it, because none is thereby given; and it, of course, now stands legally admitted, that no penalty can be recovered under the fifth of Anne against any person keeping a dog for the killing and destroying the game, unless such particular kind of dog is individually denominated in the statute, as well as correspondingly described in the action or information.

It has been before obliquely hinted, that sporting dogs only (in respect to the game and game-laws) seem of any intrinsic value in the eye of the law; as of the inferior races it takes but little, or no cognizance. During one of the terms in 1780, a cause was brought into court, in which Johnson was plaintiff, and Overall defendant; the declaration proceeded to state, that the defendant, by discharging a gun loaded with powder and ball, shot a certain dog, the property of the plaintiff, who laid his damage at a certain sum. The argument advanced by counsel on the part of the defendant, amounted to no more than simply this, "that there are only four distinct sorts of dog of any value in the estimation of the law, and those are distinctly specified; the dog stated in the declaration to have been shot was not specified, and of course did not appear to be of any value. With which nice and refined discrimination the court were perfectly satisfied, and the plaintiff was non-suited accordingly.

Thus then it appears, by the most indubitable and experimental proofs, that although the dog has, by the recent statutes, been deemed private property, and those become amenable to the law in pains or penalties, who are principals in, or accessary to the wilful detention, or malicious destruction of such dog, or dogs; yet, in the prosecution of offenders, it becomes indispensably requisite

site to specify in the indictment, declaration, or information, the particular kind, or race of dog (by individual appellation) for which the action is brought, the suit instituted, or the information laid; without which, as before explained, no conviction can be expected to take place. In direct contra-distinction to the cause last recited, one has been but lately decided, where the action was brought "for taking away a hound," and the plaintiff recovered. So in all similar cases the distinct kind of dog, whether hound, greyhound, lurcher, or whatever dog it may be, must be individually specified to insure success, and convict the offender.

In addition to these remarks so necessary to be known in the sporting-world, it is to be observed, that paying the annual dog-tax so recently imposed, does by no means exonerate those who pay it from the effects, or clauses of any previously existing statutes which are still in force whenever it may be necessary to carry them into execution. Conviction speedily took place in the instance of King against Filer, upon the fifth of Anne, "for keeping a lurcher to destroy game, not being qualified." On the part of the defendant it was argued, "that it had not been proved he made use of the dog to destroy game, and it might only have been kept for a gentleman personally qualified to kill game, it being no uncommon thing to place out dogs in that manner." This suggestion was, however, over-ruled by the court, it being remarked, that the statute is in the disjunctive "keep or use;" so that the bare "keeping" a lurcher is an offence within the meaning of the act: and so it was determined in the case of "King against King," which was a conviction "for keeping a gun;" and it was not doubted by the court, whether the "keeping" was not enough to be shewn; but a question naturally arose, whether a gun was such an engine as is within the statute? Upon which a comparative distinction was taken between "keeping a dog," which could only be to destroy game; and the keeping a gun, which a man might do for the defence of his house. The original conviction for keeping the lurcher was confirmed, and under the existing force of the statute upon which that conviction was founded, it is to be understood, that any unqualified person so keeping hound, greyhound, or lurcher, is still liable to its literal construction.

For the preservation of systematic uniformity, it has been found necessary to introduce the preceding abstracts from the different acts of parliament (appertaining to dogs only) as matter indispensably applicable to the following history, principles,

principles, and progress of the game-laws, from their origin to the present time. It has been already observed, by a modern writer of some celebrity, that the game-laws were introduced amongst us at an era when property was not governed, either in the use, or in the possession, by those enlightened maxims of justice which at present secure it. The aristocratic orders of that period consulted their own amusement and pleasure, without any very scrupulous regard to the rights, or very provident care for the comforts of the least opulent, but not least valuable classes of the community. They were strong, and they were not willing to weaken the foundation of their power, by a relaxation of their privileges. Their pride made them averse from sharing with the commonalty an amusement, which, by a small stretch of power, they might appropriate to themselves. The exercise of hunting, and the pursuit of the various sorts of game, partaking somewhat of that spirit of enterprize in which they delighted, were recreations of all others most congenial to their taste; it is not, therefore, wonderful that they should contrive to debar the lower orders from their participation.

If we advert to the original distribution of things, as accurately described in holy writ, we there find the all-dispensing power gave to man—"Dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the face of the earth." As this literally appears to have been an universal, as well as an unqualified donation, it is natural to conceive, in its general sense, that it was intended to extend to all mankind individually, without any preference or exclusive right in one man more than another. In the primitive ages of the world we are therefore induced to suppose, that every one took from the common stock, and of every production of nature, without controul or restraint, whatever his wants or inclination might prompt him to desire; and whilst mankind continued in its state of primeval simplicity, no inconvenience might be likely to have arisen from so general a participation; but when the population began to increase, and the establishment of society gave rise to an infinite variety of distinct, as well as complicated interests, it was impossible the claims, or wants of every individual could be equally and amply gratified consistently with the interests of the whole. In the earliest formation of rules and regulations for the preservation of order and cement of society, it may be readily and justly concluded, that during a constantly increasing population, the strenuous endeavours to lay the foundation of an equitable and permanent

manent civil government were frequently opposed by the turbulent contentions of various individuals striving against each other, to acquire and retain possession of the same object.

At this period of personal anarchy and threatened confusion, it became necessary to fix upon some certain rules for the acquisition and enjoyment of the productions of nature, that dissentions might not arise from one man's encroaching upon the property of another. This, in respect to the occupation and use of the soil, as well as other substantial and stationary objects, was easily adjusted, but as there were various others of a more volatile and fluctuating description not to be so readily arranged (on account of the difficulty of acquirement, and the uncertainty of permanent possession when gained), they were still allowed to remain in common, and therefore continued, as by the primary laws of nature, to be the property of him who first could take them. Amongst these may be included deer of every kind, hares, pheasants, and in fact, whatever is legally denominated game of every description; which is no longer reckoned the common property of mankind in general, and the right of the first taker; but, by the municipal laws of England, and of most other nations, is now deemed property of peculiar appropriation, belonging exclusively to persons of a particular description, who, and who only, sanctioned by the laws of the realm, are allowed the privilege of pursuing, taking, or destroying them.

In respect to the rise and progress of these prohibitions, it has been observed by that celebrated commentator, Sir William Blackstone, that they were introduced into Europe at the same time, and by the same policy, as gave birth to the feudal system of tenures; for when the leaders of the northern ravagers of Europe, in the third century, came to settle the œconomy of a vanquished country, their policy led them to keep their natives, or *rustici*, in as low a condition as possible, and especially to prohibit them the use of arms. And nothing, he observes, could do this more effectually than a prohibition of sporting and hunting; this right was, therefore, reserved to themselves, and those upon whom they chose to bestow it, which were only the capital feudatories, or greater barons. And accordingly we find, in the feudal constitutions, one and the same law prohibiting the *rustici* in general from carrying arms, and also proscribing the use of nets, snares, and every other kind of engine for the destruction of game.

It

It is well known, from the most ancient and authentic records, that for many centuries, hunting in this country has been considered a noble, emulative, and princely diversion; and in the times of the Britons (who derived much of their subsistence from the chase), the whole island was well stocked, and occasionally replenished with all sorts of game; but under the Saxon government, when lands began to be enclosed and cultivated, the wild and untameable animals naturally betook themselves to the woody and desart tracts, which (not having been disposed of in the original distribution of lands) were held to belong to the sovereign, who naturally reserved the game with which they abounded for his own use and personal amusement; but every freeholder enjoyed a right of sporting upon his own landed possessions, provided he abstained from obtruding himself upon any of these the king's forests. Upon the Norman conquest, however, a new doctrine was introduced, and the liberty of pursuing, taking, killing, and destroying every animal passing under the denomination of game, was then held (upon whatever territory it was found) to belong to the king only, or such as acted under his authority.

This right, thus newly vested in the crown, was exercised with the most energetic rigour; and unprecedented tyrannies were adopted in order to monopolize and preserve the game for royal diversion only. The *Charta de Foresta* was thus introduced, by which many forests were disafforested, and salutary regulations made in respect to such as remained; and it has since constituted the happiness of thousands in succession, that a variety of subsequent statutes, with the continued acquiescence of the crown, has at length rendered this prerogative no longer a matter of substantial regret, or mortification to the subject. From this clear, candid, and unexaggerate deduction it appears, that the sole right of taking and destroying game belongs exclusively to the king, and such as he may authorize; and these only are the persons who can acquire any property (however fugitive and transitory) in the animals coming under that denomination.

In animadversion upon the justice, wisdom, and policy of this exclusive privilege; and of the almost innumerable restrictions progressively introduced by successive legislatures in respect of the persons permitted to kill game, that although (as admitted by the learned commentator already quoted), "by the law of nature, every man, from the prince to the peasant, has an equal right of pursuing

pursuing and taking to his own use, all such creatures as are *feræ naturæ*; yet it follows, from the very end and constitution of society, that this natural right, however unequivocal in itself, may be abridged or controuled by such restrictions as it has been found expedient to impose for the benefit of the community. An authority we consequently find has been exerted by the municipal laws of every civilized nation, which have generally, as with us, invested the privilege of hunting such animals as are held in peculiar estimation, in the sovereign of the state only, or persons acting under his sole authority.

The predominant reasons which concurred in forming these constitutions were, probably, for the preservation of the several species of these animals which, by a general privilege to the people of killing, would soon have been extirpated; for the promotion and encouragement of agriculture, by giving every man an exclusive privilege over his own soil; for the prevention of idleness and dissipation in husbandmen, artificers, and others of still lower rank, which would prove the inevitable consequence of an universal and unlimited privilege; and lastly, and principally, for the prevention of popular insurrections and resistance to government by disarming the bulk of the people.

The Rev. Mr. Daniel has, with an easy and impartial freedom, in his "Rural Sports," extended his judicious remarks upon the previous passages to a considerable length, and combated some of the positions with much specious ability, if not with success, in the following words: "It is admitted by Sir W. Blackstone, that by the law of nature every man, from the prince to the peasant, has an equal right of pursuing and taking to his own use, all such creatures as are *feræ naturæ*." Blackstone's Commentaries, vol. 2, p. 411. "This truth (says Mr. D.) is granted as incontestible;" but Sir W. adds, "it follows from the very end and constitution of society, that this natural right, as well as many others belonging to man as an individual, may be restrained by positive laws enacted for reasons of state, or for the supposed benefit of the community." When the public welfare in any instance obviously demands, that the natural right of an individual should be controlled in its exercise by regulations established by law, the justice of such regulations is indisputable; but surely nothing but reasons of manifest good policy, and the actual benefit of the state, can justify such restrictions. If they may be abridged or withheld, as the learned writer here affirms they may, for reasons of state, and the supposed

posed benefit of the community, we hold them by a tenure of very uncertain duration. Nothing can be more vague than the terms which we now submit, if not to their absolute surrender, at least to an indefinite encroachment upon them.

Having ventured to promulgate his preparatory opinion upon the original foundation of the game-laws, the reverend writer thus proceeds to a more argumentative investigation of the distinct branches and minute principles by which they have attained their present weight and influence in the code of national legislation. Observing, it may be worth while separately to investigate the solidity of the reasons assigned by Sir W. Blackstone, as introductive of the game-laws, previous to the examination of the basis of his doctrine respecting them—"Many reasons," says he, "have concurred for making these constitutions: as, first, for the encouragement of agriculture and improvement of lands, by giving every man an exclusive dominion over his own soil." It is said, in the passage immediately preceding, that the municipal laws, in virtue of their authority to restrain our natural rights, "have invested the prerogative of hunting and taking such animals, as are usually the objects of pursuit in the sovereign of the state only, and such as he shall authorize." How the restriction of a natural right to kill such animals on his own ground, or permissively on those of another; how the forbidding a freeholder of less than one hundred pounds a year to kill a partridge upon his own estate, gives every man an exclusive dominion over his own soil, is not so easily comprehended. It is certainly not so obviously beneficial in this way as to promote the encouragement of agriculture, and the improvement of lands.

The next reason was "for the preservation of the several species of these animals, which would soon be extirpated by a general liberty;" the third, "for the prevention of idleness and dissipation in husbandmen, artificers, and others of low rank, which would be the unavoidable consequence of universal licence." These reasons (says Mr. Daniel) destroy each other; it is evident to reflection, that without any restrictive law upon the subject, the evil would have cured itself. It is admitted, that game would soon be extirpated by a general licence; of course all idleness and dissipation arising from this cause, must end with the cause itself, and would require no law for its prevention.

The last reason assigned, and which is said to be a reason oftener meant than avowed by the makers of forest or game-laws, is, "the prevention of popular insurrections and resistance to government, by disarming the bulk of the people:" that they were actuated by this motive, is an opinion which the history of the temper and manners of the times will hardly allow us to admit. Hawks at this time were chiefly used to kill birds, and it does not appear that military weapons seem to have been much used in the pursuit of game. It is observable too, that in the preamble of the statute 13 of Richard the Second (the first qualification statute which we meet with relating to game), it is expressly said, that "forasmuch as divers artificers, &c. to keep greyhounds and other dogs," and enacts that no person, unless qualified as there required, shall from thenceforth "keep any greyhound, hound, or other dog to hunt, nor shall they use ferrets, hays, nets, hare-pipes, cords, or other engines, to take or destroy deer." We have no mention of any instruments likely to be serviceable in the hands of sedition; nor were the government in those days so extremely tender of the liberties of the people, as to take this indirect mode of disarming them, and of relieving itself from the apprehensions of revolt. The habits, whatever they were, acquired in the pursuit of game, could not much contribute to initiate the peasantry in the rudiments of military science.

As the doctrine of the learned commentator relative to game, and the maxims he has laid down concerning it, differ very considerably from the general spirit of his reasoning respecting property, and the modes of acquiring it, we shall proceed to examine its validity. The position advanced, and very emphatically enforced in such parts of his work as lead him to the discussion of the subject, is, that the sole right of taking and destroying game belongs exclusively to the king. "It is true," says he, "that by the acquiescence of the crown, the frequent grants of free-warren in ancient times, and the introduction of new penalties, this exclusive prerogative of the king is little known or considered; every man that is exempted from these modern penalties, looking upon himself as at liberty to do what he pleases with the game; whereas the contrary is strictly the case, that no man, however well qualified he may be vulgarly esteemed, has a right to encroach on the royal prerogative, unless he can shew a particular grant of free-warren, or a prescription which presumes a grant, or some authority under an act of parliament."

Previous

Previous to a continuation of Mr. Daniel's strictures upon the commentaries of Sir William Blackstone, it becomes necessary to observe, that the game-laws (which will immediately follow) do not, critically speaking, qualify or authorize any one (except in the single instance of a game-keeper) to take or kill game, but in order to prevent the formal process, and other inconveniences of an action by the person injured (who might, probably, remit the penalties), the statutes formed for the preservation of game, inflict additional penalties, to be recovered by any of the king's subjects, from certain persons of inferior rank, who may be found offending in this particular; but it does not follow that persons excused from these additional penalties are therefore authorized to kill game; the circumstance of being possessed of one hundred pounds per annum freehold estate, is not so properly a qualification to kill, as an exemption from the penalties annexed to the killing; and persons so exempted from the penalties are, notwithstanding, liable as well to actions of trespass by the owners of land, as also (if they kill game within any royal franchise) to actions by such as have right of free-warren within.

Having premised thus much from the highest authority, and best authenticated records, it becomes directly applicable to introduce and arrange the substance of the several successive acts of parliament relative to the principal head of "qualification by estate," occasionally elucidating particular parts, by adverting to the constructions which the more doubtful and ambiguous clauses have received from the courts. The esttae required to exempt the possessor from the penalties of the game-laws, has repeatedly varied, according to the tone of the times in which the different statutes have been framed. In the reign of Richard the Second, the requisite estate was no more than forty shillings; in that of James the First, it was advanced to ten pounds; and, in the reign of Charles the Second (when the last qualification act was passed), to one hundred pounds per annum. This progressive advance has, however, never been attributed to any increasing spirit of monopolization in the legislature, but to the gradual alteration of the value of money, which has evidently decreased in that proportion. As these several acts are still in force, and the prosecutor may resort to either of them (accordingly as he is inclined to be more or less severe against the offender), it becomes indispensably necessary to insert the purport of each in rotation, the better to render so complex and ambiguous a subject as clear as possible to every comprehension.

STATUTE OF RICHARD THE SECOND.

By this act, which (as before observed) is the first law to be found upon record relative to game, its preservation, or destruction, it is enacted, "that no layman who hath not lands or tenements of forty shillings a year, or clergyman not being advanced to ten pounds a year, shall have any greyhound, hound, or other dog to hunt; nor shall use any ferrets, hays, nets, hare-pipes, cords, or other engines for taking or destroying hares or conies, or other gentlemens' game, on pain of one year's imprisonment, to be inflicted by the justices at their quarter-sessions."

This origin of the game-laws having been thus founded about four hundred years since, was suffered to remain almost intirely undisturbed by any attempt at innovation, or alteration of consequence, for eleven reigns, and more than two centuries; when the "qualification by estate" underwent the following changes by

ACT THE FIRST OF JAMES THE FIRST, c. 27.

In which it is enacted, that every person, unless seised in his own, or his wife's right of an estate of inheritance of ten pounds a year, or of a life-estate of ten pounds a year, or goods to the value of two hundred pounds; or unless he be the son of a lord or knight, or the son and heir apparent of an esquire, who shall keep any greyhound for coursing of deer, or hares, or any setting-dog or net to take pheasants, or partridges, and to be thereof convicted by confession, or oath of two witnesses, before two justices, he shall be committed to goal for three months, without he pay twenty shillings to the poor, or after one month's imprisonment, be bound, with two sureties, in twenty pounds each, not to offend again. And by subsequent statute in the same reign,

SEVENTH OF JAMES THE FIRST, c. 11.

relative to partridges and pheasants only, there is an express provision, authorizing every person having free-warren, and every lord of a manor, and also every freeholder seised in his own or his wife's right of lands or hereditaments of the clear value of forty pounds, by themselves, or by their household-servants

servants duly authorized, to take pheasants and partridges in the day-time, between Michaelmas and Christmas, on their own or master's free-warren, manor, or freehold.

In this state stood these laws for fifty years, without any attempt at rectification, till the great and most material change was made by

THE 22d AND 23d OF CHARLES THE SECOND, c. 25.

whereby it is enacted, that every person not having lands or tenements, or some other estate of inheritance (1) in his own or his wife's right, (2) of the clear yearly value (3) of one hundred pounds, or for a term of life, (4) or having lease or leases of ninety-nine years, or for any longer term of the yearly value of one hundred and fifty pounds, other than the son and heir-apparent of an esquire, or other persons of higher degree, (5) and the owners and keepers of forests, parks, chases, or warrens, being stocked with deer or conies for their necessary use in respect to the said forests, parks, chases, or warrens, are declared by the laws of this realm, not to have or keep for themselves, or any other person, (6) guns, bows, greyhounds, setting-dogs, ferrets, coney-dogs, lurchers, hays, nets, low-bells, hare-pipes, gins, snares, or other engines for the taking and killing of conies, hares, pheasants, partridges, or other game, but shall be prohibited to have, keep, or use the same.

Previous to a few necessary remarks upon the aggregate of this act, the following annotations, to correspond with the references annexed, will be found instrumental to a more perfect comprehension of the whole.

(1) A vicar, in respect of his church, has not an estate of inheritance, but for his life only.

(2) This is not to be understood of a tenant by the courtesy, but of one whose wife is living.

(3) On this word it has been held that the estate must be clear of all mortgages or incumbrances created by the owners, or by those under whom he claims; but an equitable estate of that value is sufficient.

(4) Upon

(4) Upon this part of the act it has been determined, that a tenant for life must have an estate of one hundred and fifty pounds per ann. to exempt him from the penalties of the game-laws.

(5) Those denominated esquires in the eye of the law, and alluded to in this statute, are—the younger sons of noblemen, and their heirs male for ever; the four esquires of the king's body; the eldest sons of baronets, of knights of the Bath, and knights batchelors, and their heirs male in the right line. A justice of the peace is also an esquire for the time he is in the commission, but no longer. Persons of higher degree than esquires, are colonels, serjeants at law, and doctors in the three learned professions; but neither esquires, nor any of these are qualified to kill game, unless they have the requisite estate mentioned in the preceding part of the act; though their sons are qualified without any estate. This, however unreasonable it may seem, has been fully settled to be the true construction of the act.

(6) An unqualified person, therefore, cannot keep the dogs of a qualified person, a thing frequently required by the landlord, of his tenant, so to do.

From the inaccurate composition and irregular punctuation of the act in question, it may not be inapplicable to give a concise abstract of the qualifications it requires, as determined (in the various causes and litigations) by the resolutions of the courts; which center in the following enumeration:—

Every person having lands or tenements, or other estates of inheritance of the clear yearly value of one hundred pounds; or, for term of life, or lease or leases for ninety-nine years, or any longer term, of the clear yearly value of one hundred and fifty pounds.

The sons and heir-apparent of esquires, or of other persons of higher degree.

The owner or keeper of any forest, park, chase, or warren.

The lord of any manor or royalty.

The game-keeper of any lord or lady of a manor, provided he be a person qualified, or really and truly a servant to such lord or lady; or immediately em-

ployed

ployed and appointed to kill game for the sole use of such lord or lady. But it must be premised, that the two last qualifications arise out of the more recent statutes of Anne and George I. which come now to be described. These laws thus regenerated by an entirely new arrangement of the qualifications already recited, remained more than half a century without being thought, or found worthy of the least alteration or farther improvement; when the changes in the time, or the people, the caprice of the great, the unprecedented destruction of the game, or the leisure of the legislature, produced

THE FIFTH OF ANNE, c. 14. s. 4.

which is the act most frequently resorted to at the present day, and is, indeed, the most efficacious in its tendency; for by this statute it is enacted, that if any person not qualified in one of the ways before recited shall keep or use (a) any greyhounds, setting-dogs, hays, lurchers, (b) or any other engines (c) to kill and destroy the game, and shall be thereof convicted upon the oath of one witness by the justice of peace where such offence is committed, he shall forfeit the sum of *five pounds*, one half to go to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress (d) under the warrant of a justice, and for want of (e) the means of distress, the offender shall be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and four months for every offence in future; and any justice of the peace, or lord or lady of manors, are allowed to take away any hare or other game, and likewise any dogs, nets, or any other engines which shall be in custody of any person not qualified to keep the same to their own use.

The incessant misconstructions which have arisen, and given birth to long and acrimonious litigations, amongst persons of all distinctions, upon the equivocal spirit and doubtful letter of the acts already recited; render it necessary to introduce every experimental remark and judicial observation, that can in the least tend to elucidate the subject, and dispel the doubts of those who are but little used to the technical terms of professional ambiguity. By adverting to the references in the abstract of the act just described, it is to be understood, according to the decisions which have already been made in the courts, that

(a) These

(a) These words being in the disjunctive, the bare keeping of any one of the dogs mentioned, is an offence; and as to the using, it has been determined, that walking about with an intent to kill game, is a using within this statute.

(b) This being a penal act, must be construed literally, and will not therefore extend by any equitable construction to any other dogs than those individually specified.

(c) It has been held that a gun is not such an engine, the bare keeping of which is penal; it must moreover be shewn to be used for the destruction of game. It is also observable, that though the using a gun and a dog are both separately penal, yet it has been determined by the late Lord Chief Justice Kenyon, that if a person go out with a gun and dog on the same day, he is subject to but one penalty.

(d) Goods distrained for penalties under the game-laws cannot be replevied.

(e) By the fair construction of these words it appears, that the justice has not the power to commit, if the offender has effects sufficient to satisfy the penalty.

Adverting to the preceding statute of Charles, it is there provided, the gamekeepers by warrant from a justice of peace may, in the day time, search the houses, or other places of any such persons prohibited by this act to keep or use any dogs, nets, or other engines aforesaid, and the same seize and keep for the use of the lord of the manor; or, otherwise, to cut in pieces or destroy the things so prohibited. And by a retrospective reference to the first of James the First, it is there enacted, more fully than in any other act now in force, that every person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any gun, cross-bow, stone-bow, or long-bow, any pheasant, partridge, pigeon, heron, mallard, duck, teal, wigeon, grouse, heathcock, moor-game, or any such fowl, or any hare; and the offence be proved by the confession of the party, or by the testimony of two witnesses upon oath before two justices where the offence shall be committed, the party apprehended shall be committed to the common-goal for three months, unless he pay to the churchwardens of the parish where such offence was committed, or where he was apprehended, *twenty shillings* for the use of the poor,

for

for every pheasant, partridge, pigeon, &c. he shall so take or destroy, and also within one month after commitment become bound with two sureties in twenty pounds each to the king, not to shoot at, kill, take, or destroy any of the said games by the means aforesaid; and by the seventh act of the same king, every person who shall take, kill, or destroy any pheasant or partridge, with setting-dogs and nets, or with any nets, snares, or engines, proved by confession of the party, or the testimony of one witness, taken as aforesaid, shall forfeit the like sum, and enter into like sureties.

The better to prevent the probability of indiscreet or inadvertent infringements, by the different branches of the military, now become so unavoidably numerous for the defence of the country; there is a clause continued in the annual mutiny act, in which it is enjoined, "if any officer or soldier shall, without leave of the lord of the manor, under his hand and seal, take, kill, or destroy any hare, coney, pheasant, partridge, pigeon, or any other sort of fowls, poultry, or fish, or his majesty's game, and be thereof convicted before a justice, on the oath of one witness; every officer so offending shall forfeit *five pounds* to the poor of the place; and every officer commanding in chief, shall forfeit *twenty shillings* for every such offence committed by any soldier under his command; and if such officer, after demand made by the constable or overseer, shall not pay the penalties within two days, he shall forfeit his commission, which becomes null and void."

Upon this clause, the reverend author of "Rural Sports," has in that work introduced the following remarks:—"To visit the sin of one man upon another, is to declare open war against all those axioms of equity and justice which eternal wisdom has given as the guide of human conduct; it is to carry more than the rigour of military discipline into the spirit of judicial dispensations. Of all the citizens of a free state, those who are most peculiarly its defenders, those who may be said to have every nerve in action, and at its stretch for its protection, ought not surely to have their defaults chastised with marked austerity. The principle upon which it is founded is erroneous, and ought to be reformed. Such principles are pernicious to every penal code; injurious to every civil system; with all their merits and perfections, there are but too many of them in our own; generated as they must have been by the careless haste of imbecility, they should be removed by the steady reflectiveness of wisdom. Then shall the basis of the British constitution, like the foundation of God, remain sure, immoveable,

moveable, amidst the floods which come, the rains which descend, and the winds that blow and beat upon it. Then shall it "stand acknowledged while the world shall stand," as the edifice of justice, and the fortress of freedom."

Adverting once more respectively to this code, as it progressively accumulated to its present voluminous extent, it is necessary to observe, that by the

FOURTH AND FIFTH OF WILLIAM AND MARY, c. 23, s. 3.

every constable, headborough, and tithingman being authorized by one justice of the peace, is empowered to enter into, and search the houses of suspected persons not qualified, and in case any hare, partridge, pheasant, pigeon, fish, fowl, or other game shall be found, the offender shall be carried before a justice of peace; and if such person do not give a good account how he came by such game, or shall not in convenient time, to be named by the justice, produce the party of whom he bought the same, or procure some creditable person to depose upon oath a sale thereof, he shall be convicted by the said justice of such offence, and shall forfeit for every hare, partridge, fish, or other game, any sum not under *five*, nor more than *twenty shillings*, one moiety to be paid to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish where the offence is committed, to be levied by distress under warrant of the justice, and for want of distress the offender shall be committed to the house of correction for a time not exceeding one month, nor less than ten days, there to be whipt and kept to hard labour. And by the same section, if any person so produced shall not give sufficient evidence of his innocence, he shall be convicted in the same manner as the person first charged, and so from person to person until the first offender be discovered.

The same act in the tenth section, after taking notice that great mischiefs do ensue by inferior tradesmen, apprentices, and other dissolute persons neglecting their trades and employments, who follow hunting, fishing, and other game, to the ruin of themselves and damage to their neighbours, it is enacted, that if any inferior tradesman, apprentice, or other dissolute person shall hunt, hawk, fish, or fowl (unless in company with the master of such apprentice duly qualified), such persons may be sued for their wilful trespass in coming upon any person's ground, and if found guilty shall pay the full costs. The restrictions

strictions and penalties hitherto introduced, relate only to such persons as are not qualified under the acts of Charles the Second already recited; those to be hereafter mentioned will relate to those who are, as well as those who are not under that statute, unless signified to the contrary.

Having gone through such acts, clauses, and abstracts, as appertain principally to the qualification of killing game by estate, we come to the additional restrictions recently imposed, which, in their effect, seem to constitute an aggregate of the whole. By the

TWENTY-FIFTH OF GEORGE THE THIRD, c. 50. s. 2.

it is enacted, that every person in Great Britain, who shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine for the taking of, or destruction of game (such person not acting as game-keeper under a deputation duly registered), shall every year previously to his using the same, deliver in a paper or account in writing, containing his name, and place of abode, to the clerk of the peace of the county where he shall reside, or his deputy, and annually take out a certificate of having so done; for which he is to pay the sum of three guineas, and one shilling to the clerk for his trouble in making out the same; which certificate shall bear date on the day whereon it is issued, and remain in force from thence until the first day of July then after, and no longer. Such certificate may be demanded by the unqualified as well as the qualified, and should the clerk of the peace refuse to grant such certificate when demanded, he is liable to the penalty of *twenty pounds.*

By the same act it is further enacted, that every deputation of a game-keeper granted to any person, by any lord or lady of any manor in England or Wales, shall be registered with the clerk of the peace of the county in which such manor lies; where he shall receive a certificate of such registry, upon the payment of one guinea, and one shilling to the clerk for the same. A game-keeper omitting to register his deputation, and to take out his certificate for twenty days, is liable to a penalty of *twenty pounds.* The certificate must be renewed annually; and upon the appointment of a new game-keeper, a new certificate must be taken out; and the person formerly acting under the old certificate is no longer qualified to kill game, but becomes liable to all the penalties of the act.

act. It is also further enacted by the same act, "that if any person shall use any greyhound, hound, pointer, setting-dog, or other dog, or any gun, net, or other engine for the taking or destruction of any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-fowl (called black-game), or grouse (called red-game), or any other game whatsoever, without having obtained such certificate, such person shall forfeit the sum of *twenty pounds*; from which penalty every branch of the royal family are excepted.

And to prevent the said statute from being evaded, and to facilitate the detection of offenders, it is provided that every person having obtained a certificate in manner aforesaid, who shall find any other person using any dog, gun, net, or other engine for the taking of, or the destruction of game, it shall be lawful for him (after having produced his own certificate) to demand from such other person using such dog, &c. the certificate to him issued of having conformed to the said act: and on such demand, such person shall produce such certificate, and permit the same to be inspected, and on refusing to produce the same, and also refusing to give his christian and surname, and his place of residence; or giving a false name or place of residence, he shall forfeit the sum of *fifty pounds*. And it is further provided by the said act, that the certificate thereby directed to be taken out shall not authorize any person to use any greyhound, hound, pointer, setting-dog, spaniel, or other dog, or any gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or destruction of game, at any time, or in any manner prohibited by former acts; nor shall authorize any person to use the same, unless such persons shall be properly qualified so to do under the laws now in being; but shall, notwithstanding such certificate, be liable to the same penalties as are inflicted by all the former acts now in force.

From which explicit exposition it is to be clearly comprehended, that persons taking out a certificate who are not qualified by any of the former acts to kill game, derive no privilege from their certificate so to do; but nevertheless, remain liable to all the penalties of the former acts, if informed against and prosecuted to conviction. It is the more necessary to inculcate this fact forcibly, because it has by many been erroneously, and too hastily supposed, that the act just recited, "requiring persons using guns, dogs, &c. for the destruction of game, to enter their names, and take out certificates thereof with the clerk of the peace," operated as an exemption from the penalties inflicted by former statutes;

tutes; so far from doing which, it absolutely superadds additional penalties, in case the further requisitions of this act are not complied with.

It however appears, upon the experience of the last seven years, that since the privilege of killing game has contributed so equitably and so largely to the exigencies of the state and the accommodation of the people, that much less litigation has prevailed upon the score of preservation. Indeed, there now seems to be so general a confidence, that almost every person (however unqualified in other respects) having taken out a certificate in conformity with the letter and spirit of the act, affects to consider himself nominally entitled to kill; in full confirmation of the verity of which suggestion, the list of those who have obtained certificates in the different counties, may be inspected annually at the stamp-office upon payment of one shilling, where will be found the names of hundreds who do not individually possess an independent twenty pounds per ann. upon the face of the globe.

In addition to the remarks already made, and so truly necessary to be retained in memory by every part of the sporting world; it becomes equally applicable to introduce such explanatory passages arising from a view of the act, as appertain to the official department and employment of the game-keeper, so far as it relates to him only. A game-keeper having no other qualification than his deputation, is not entitled to kill game out of the precincts of the manor for which he has been appointed. Nor is he empowered to demand the name, or a sight of the certificate of any qualified person out of his own district, unless he is qualified to kill game in his own right (exclusive of his deputation), and is possessed of his three-guinea certificate; in which case he may do either, or both. But let it be remembered, that although he is qualified to kill game in his own right (according to all the prescriptions of former statutes), and acts under a deputation for any certain specified manor, he is liable to the penalty prescribed by this act, if he is informed against for, and convicted of killing game out of that manor, without being possessed of the three-guinea certificate, as well as his certified deputation.

One game-keeper only can be appointed to kill game within one manor, in which also he is empowered by his deputation to take and seize all guns, bows, greyhounds, setting-dogs, lurchers, ferrets, trammels, low-bells, hays, or other nets, hare-pipes, snares, or other engines for the taking and killing of hares, pheasants,

pheasants, partridges, or other game, within the precincts of such manor, in the possession of any person not qualified to keep the same. It does not, however, appear by the letter of any one act, that a game-keeper is empowered to seize the game, although he is sufficiently authorized to take all instruments in use for the destruction of it. By the act of Anne it is enacted, that any game-keeper taking or killing a hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game, under colour of its being for the use of the lord or lady of the manor, and afterwards selling or disposing thereof, without the consent of the said lord or lady of the manor by whom he shall have been deputed, on conviction, on the complaint of such lord or lady, and on the oath of one witness before a justice of the peace, shall be committed to the house of correction for three months, and there kept to hard labour.

Having taken a concise review of the laws so far as they appertain to the qualifications indispensably necessary by both estate and certificate for the privilege of pursuing and killing game; we proceed to a description of the established restrictions to prevent a wanton destruction of game at what is legally termed improper seasons of the year. The better and more effectually to prevent which, it is enacted by 2 Geo. III. c. 19. s. 1. and 39 Geo. III. c. 34. that no person shall, upon any pretence whatever, take, kill, destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession any partridge between the first day of February and the first day of September; or any pheasant between the first day of February and the first day of October, unless such pheasant be taken in the proper season, and be kept in a mew or breeding-place; and it is further provided, that any person offending against this act, shall forfeit *five pounds* for every partridge or pheasant so taken, the penalty to be paid to the informer, with full costs of suit.

And by 13 Geo. III. c. 55. s. 2. no person shall kill, destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession any heath-fowl, commonly called black-game, between the tenth day of December and the twentieth day of August, nor any grouse, commonly called red-game, between the tenth day of December and the twelfth day of August, nor any bustard between the first day of March and the first day of September in any year, upon pain of forfeiting for the first offence, a sum not exceeding *twenty*, nor less than *ten pounds*; and for the second and every subsequent offence, a sum not exceeding *thirty*, nor less than *twenty pounds*; one moiety thereof to go to the informer, and the other moiety to the poor of the

the parish; and in case the penalty be not paid, and there be no means of distress to be had, the offender may be committed to prison, to be kept to hard labour for any time, not exceeding six, nor less than three months. And for the better preservation of black-game and grouse, there is an existing statute of William and Mary in force, by which it is enacted, that no person shall, between the second day of February and the twenty-fourth day of June, burn any grig, ling, heath, furze, goss, or fern, on any mountains, hills, heaths, moors, forests, chases, or other wastes, upon pain that the offender shall be committed to the house of correction for any time not exceeding one month, nor less than ten days, there to be whipt, and kept to hard labour.

In addition to the infinity of restrictions so constantly accumulated for the preservation of the game by day, it was long since found inevitably necessary to adopt every possible means of stemming the torrent of nocturnal depredation, by which alone the different species of game were well known to suffer, more than by all the other modes of sporting in conjunction. The first attempt to subdue so destructive and general a propensity was during the reign of Elizabeth, when an act passed in which it was enacted, that no person, of whatever estate, degree, or condition, should take or destroy any pheasant or partridge in the night-time, upon pain of forfeiting *twenty shillings* for every pheasant, and *ten shillings* for every partridge. And by the 9th Anne, c. 25. s. 3. if any person whatsoever shall take or kill any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor-game, heath-game, or grouse in the night-time, he shall, on conviction before a justice, forfeit the sum of *five pounds*, one half to go to the informer, and one half to the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress, and for want of the means of distress, to be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and four months for every offence after.

These trifling penalties and punishments being found inadequate to the purposes for which they were intended, it was by 13 Geo. III. c. 80. s. 1. further provided, that if any person shall kill, take, or destroy any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor-game, or heath-game, or use any gun, dog, snare, net, or other engine, with an intent to take, kill, or destroy the same in the night-time, viz. between seven o'clock at night and six in the morning, from the 12th of October to the 12th of February; and between nine o'clock at night and four in the morning, from the 12th of February to the 12th of October, such person being thereof convicted upon the oath of one witness, before one justice, shall forfeit

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for the first offence, a sum not exceeding *twenty*, nor less than *ten pounds*; and for the second, a sum not exceeding *thirty*, nor less than *twenty pounds*, one moiety thereof to be paid to the informer, and the other moiety to the poor of the parish. And by an act of William and Mary, all lords of manors, or any persons authorized by them as game-keepers may, within their royalties, resist such offenders in the night-time, and shall suffer no punishment on that account.

By the aforesaid act of Geo. III. it is enacted, that if any person shall upon a Sunday, or on Christmas-day, in the day-time, take, kill, or destroy any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-game, or moor-game, or shall upon a Sunday or Christmas-day, use any dog, gun, net, or other engine for the taking, killing, or destroying thereof, such person being convicted, shall be subject to the like penalties, as by the said act are inflicted, for taking or destroying game in the night-time. And by 40 Geo. III. c. 50. it is further enacted, that if any persons to the number of two or more shall, after the passing of this act, enter into or be found in any forest, chase, park, wood, plantation, paddock, field, meadow, or other open or inclosed ground in the night, that is to say, between the hours of eight of the clock at night and six in the morning, from the first day of October to the first day of February, or between the hours of ten at night and four in the morning, from the first day of February to the first day of October in each year, having any gun, net, engine, or other instrument for the purpose and with the intent to destroy, take, or kill any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-fowl, commonly called black-game, or grouse, commonly called red-game, or any other game; or if any person or persons shall be found with any gun, fire-arms, bludgeons, or with any other offensive weapons, protecting, aiding, or assisting any such person as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the ranger and occupier of any such forest, chace, park, wood, plantation, paddock, field, meadow, or other open or enclosed ground, and also for his, her, or their keeper and servants, and also for any other person or persons to seize and apprehend, or to assist in seizing and apprehending such offender or offenders, by virtue of this act, and to convey and deliver him into the custody of a peace-officer, who is to convey such offender before some justice of the peace; or in case he shall not be so apprehended, any justice on information before him upon the oath of any creditable witness, to issue his warrant for the apprehension of such offender; and if upon his apprehension, it shall appear to such justice on the oath of any creditable witness, that the person so charged has been guilty of the said offences, every such person shall be deemed a rogue and

a vagabond, within the meaning of an act of the seventeenth of George the Second, entitled, "An act to amend and make more effectual the laws relating to rogues and vagabonds, and other idle, and disorderly persons, and to houses of correction," and shall suffer such punishment as are directed to be inflicted on rogues and vagabonds.

The great and general destruction of hares during every deep and lasting snow, having rendered necessary some legal restrictions to prevent so cruel and unprincipled a mode of devastation, the following have been successively adopted, and are still in force, exclusive of the various pains and penalties annexed to the different acts already recited. By the 14th and 15th of Henry VIII. it is enacted, that no person, of whatever estate, degree, or condition they may be, shall trace and kill any hare in the snow, on penalty of *six shillings* and *eightpence* for each hare. And by the first of James the First, whoever shall trace or course any hares in the snow, shall on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to goal for three months, unless he pay to the churchwardens for the use of the poor, the sum of *twenty shillings* for every hare he shall so take or destroy; or shall within one month after his commitment become bound with two sureties, in *twenty pounds* a-piece before two justices, not to offend in like manner.

It is also by the same act provided, that every person who shall, at any time, take or destroy any hares with hare-pipes, cords, or with any such instruments, or other engines, shall on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, suffer the like penalties. And by 22 and 23 of Charles the Second, if any person be found setting, or using any snares, hare-pipes, or other like engines, and shall thereof be convicted by confession, or oath of one witness, before one justice, within a month after the offence committed, he shall give to the party injured such satisfaction as the justice shall appoint, and pay down immediately to the overseers, for the use of the poor, a sum not exceeding *ten shillings*, or else shall be committed to the house of correction for a time not exceeding one month. And by the before-mentioned act of James, any person who shall take the eggs of any pheasant or partridge out of the nest, or willingly break, spoil, or destroy the same in the nest, shall on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to goal for three months, unless he pay, on conviction, to the churchwardens, for

the use of the poor, *twenty shillings* for every egg, or within one month thereafter become bound with two sureties in twenty pounds each, not to offend again in like manner.

Notwithstanding the constantly accumulating code of laws upon this subject, it was found by the experimental observations of one generation after another, that the game of every species suffered a much greater diminution by those nocturnal depredators denominated *poachers*, than by every other means whatever. To stem this torrent of unprincipled devastation, every plan was adopted by the wisdom of successive legislatures, that could possibly tend to a reduction of the practice; but it evidently appearing, that so long as game was either publicly, or privately bought and sold, the statutes (however numerous) made for its preservation would prove but of little effect; it having been most forcibly demonstrated by long experience, that no penalties would be sufficient to check the rapacity of either avarice, or indigence. It was therefore enacted by the first of James First, that if any person shall sell, or buy to sell again, any deer, hare, partridge, or pheasant (except partridges and pheasants reared up by hand, or brought from abroad), he shall, on conviction at the assizes, quarter-sessions, or before two justices, forfeit *forty shillings* for every deer; *ten shillings* for every hare; *ten shillings* for every partridge; and *twenty shillings* for every pheasant; one moiety to go to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish.

The trifling penalties of this act being found totally inadequate to the purpose for which they were intended, they were revised, and more effectually bettered by the fifth of Anne, in which it is enacted, if any higler, chapman, carrier, inn-keeper, victualler, or alehouse-keeper, shall have in his custody any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor, heath-game, or grouse (unless in the case of a carrier they be sent up by persons qualified to kill game), or shall buy, sell, or offer to sell, any such hare, pheasant, &c. on conviction, by the oath of one witness, he shall forfeit for every hare, pheasant, &c. the sum of *five pounds*, one half to be paid to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress; and for want of the means of distress, the offender shall be committed to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and four months for every offence in future. And by the same statute, any justice of peace, or lord of a manor (within the same manor) may take to his own use

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any such hare, &c. or any other game which shall be found in the custody or possession of any such higler or other person not qualified to kill game. And by the same act, any person buying or selling of game against the said statute, may inform against any person under the same, so that he be convicted, such informer shall be discharged of the aforesaid penalties, and shall receive the same benefit as any other informer.

The better and more effectually to renew and enforce the before-recited act, it was provided by the 28th Geo. II. that if any person, whether qualified or not qualified to kill game, shall sell, expose, or offer to sell any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor, heath-game, or grouse, every such person shall, for every such offence, be liable to the penalties as have been mentioned in the last statute, to be inflicted upon higlers, chapmen, &c. for buying or selling game; and, as it was found a matter of great difficulty to detect persons in the act of selling game, in order the more effectually to put a stop to this practice, it was further enacted, that if any of the aforesaid game shall be found in the shop, house, or possession of any poulterer, salesman, fishmonger, cook, pastry-cook, or any other person not qualified in his own right (or entitled under some person so qualified), the same shall be deemed an exposing thereof to sale.

Having gone through such comprehensive review of these laws, as may render them applicably convenient to the wants of those, who wish to acquire their concise spirit and effect, without exploring the immense and massy volumes of parliamentary form, and professional tautology, it can be of no less use, and general accommodation, to reduce what has been already, in a great degree, abridged, to such farther contracted scale of instruction as may afford, at an almost single point of view, a clear and explanatory construction of the whole. In going through this correct recapitulation, the essence of the various acts will be found to center in the following focus. Unqualified persons using any engine to kill or destroy hares, pheasants, partridges, or other game, liable to a penalty of *five pounds*; and those keeping or using greyhounds, setting-dogs, or any other engines to destroy game, are liable to a forfeiture of the same sum. The keeping or using being jointly or individually liable to the penalty, the same as for actually killing; so it appears, from the literal construction of the act, that if the distinct informations were separately laid, first for keeping, or using, and secondly for killing, conviction must inevitably follow for both, if sufficient evidence is produced to confirm the offence.

Restrictions, in respect to time, for killing game, are as follow :—No partridge to be killed between the 12th of Feb. and 1st of Sept. in any year under penalty of *five pounds.* No pheasant between the 1st of Feb. and the 1st of Oct. under the like penalty. No heath-fowl (commonly called black-game) between the 10th of Dec. and the 20th of Aug. nor any grouse (commonly called red-game) between the 10th of Dec. and 12th of Aug. in any year, upon pain of forfeiting, for the first offence, a sum not exceeding *twenty,* nor less than *ten pounds.* No time is limited for the killing of hares, provided they are not illegally taken. No game whatever is to be killed or taken sooner than one hour before sun-rising, or later than one hour after sun-set, under penalty of *five pounds* to the qualified as well as the unqualified. Any unqualified person exposing a hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game to sale, is liable to a penalty of *five pounds.* Killing game on a Sunday, or on Christmas-day, liable to the same penalty as killing game during the night.

These are the penalties annexed to all the former acts now in force, independent of the recent act of the present reign, respecting annual certificates to be taken out from the clerk of the peace as already described; without which, any unqualified person so offending, incurs an additional penalty of *twenty pounds,* making the forfeiture *twenty-five pounds*; but to the qualified the penalty is only *twenty pounds,* for killing, or attempting to kill, without the annual certificate so prescribed to be taken out. Information upon most of the acts must be laid within six calendar months, before a justice of peace; or by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information. The whole penalty to be given to the informer with double costs, if brought on in Westminster-Hall. Upon summary conviction, half to the informer, and half to the poor. In addition to the statutes already recounted, there are collateral considerations coming under the denomination of trespass in the pursuit of game, of which cognizance has been also taken by the expansive eye of the law; but the distinctions being of too refined a texture for the recollection of sportsmen, in the eager impetuosity of the chase, to refrain from unlawfully trespassing on the grounds of another (and by that means subjecting themselves to an action for damages); it would be an omission of no small culpability to conclude the aggregate of the game-laws, without the necessary information and remarks upon what is professionally termed the law of trespass.

Trespass, in the sense wherein it is now to be considered, is the entry on another man's ground without his leave, and doing any damage (however inconsiderable) to his real property; and every such entry is considered by the law (unless in some few particular cases) as an injury to the owner, for which an action of trespass will lie, and for which a satisfaction is recoverable according to the malicious intent of the trespasser, and the damage actually committed. These actions have been sometimes carried to an iniquitous extent; and, in the hands of ill-natured and illiberal persons, frequently became oppressive engines of malice against those who had committed a trespass from pure ignorance or inadvertency, and who, though nominal damages were given, were obliged to bear the whole expence of the suit. In order, therefore, to prevent such trivial and vexatious actions, it is enacted, by an act of Elizabeth, and strengthened by a subsequent one of Charles II. that where the jury who try an action of trespass give less damages than *forty shillings*, the plaintiff shall be allowed no more costs than the damages, unless (as is provided by 8 and 9 William and Mary) it shall appear that the trespass was wilful and malicious, and is so certified to be by the judge; in which case the plaintiff shall recover full costs. An exception, however, must not be omitted in respect of inferior tradesmen, concerning whom it is enacted,

By 4 and 5 of William and Mary, that every inferior tradesman, apprentice, or other dissolute person, may be sued for going upon another man's ground to hunt, &c. though he do no injury to the soil, and if found guilty, shall pay full costs of suit. The reason for which distinction between inferior persons and others, is given in the preamble to the statute, namely, to discourage the temptation which might otherwise be afforded them, of neglecting their proper business in pursuit of sport to the ruin of themselves and families. It is also further provided by 23 Elizabeth, that no person shall hawk, or hunt with spaniels, in any ground where there shall be corn or grain, which shall be eared or codded, until the same shall be shocked, cocked, hilled, or copped, upon pain of forfeiture for every time he shall so hawk or hunt (without the consent of the owner of the corn), the sum of *forty shillings*, to the proprietor of the said corn or grain. A trespass is considered as wilful in law, where the person has been forewarned not to come upon the land; and malicious where the trespass is plainly committed with intent to vex and distress the plaintiff. And where this appears to have been the case, it should seem that the judge is bound to certify, so that he be required so to do in court immediately upon the trial.

Under

Under the different statutes relating to trespass, qualified as well as unqualified persons are equally included. A lord of a manor, therefore, even within his own manor, cannot come upon another man's ground without being a trespasser, and he shall pay like costs with another person under similar circumstances; as if warning having been given as before-mentioned, a lord of a manor, or other qualified person, will be considered as a malicious trespasser, and liable to pay full costs, though the damages awarded be under *forty shillings.* If, however, a lord of a manor have a grant of free-warren (which he sometimes has) over another man's grounds, he may justify sporting within his own franchise, though the ground be not his; in no other respect has he any greater privilege than other qualified persons. In some few cases where the public good is concerned, the law leniently excuses a trespass, as when committed in the extatic fervour of the chase, with fox, or in pursuit of vermin and beasts of prey, because the destroying such animals is for a general good; but in doing this, no more damage must be done than is necessary and unavoidable. So that in the instance of hunting a fox or badger, a man cannot justify breaking the soil to drive him out of the earth; for though the law allows the hunting of noxious animals for the public benefit, yet it must be done in the usual and ordinary manner, and not to the destruction of another's property. To prevent unnecessary litigation, or any misconstruction of the latest acts, it has been determined by the highest legal authority, that any unqualified person may go out to beat hedges, bushes, and mark birds, in company with any qualified person to see the game found, pursued, and taken, without being liable to any penalty, provided he has no dog, gun, or engine of his own individually to assist in its destruction.

Having endeavoured to bring an abridged view of the existing parts of these laws (as they now stand, and as they are now acted upon) into as concise a point of view as so voluminous and truly complex a subject will permit; and so perfectly free from ambiguity as to be rendered perfectly clear to the most moderate comprehension, it is seriously to be regretted, that after all the experience and refinement of centuries, after all the investigation and deliberation of the successive legislatures, and the additional advantages derived from the sage opinions of the most learned in the law, they are certainly less respected, and less effectual amongst the lower classes of the people, than any other code to be found in the statute-books of this kingdom. Whether it is that they are less understood, less palatable to those who conceive themselves most affected by their formation,

formation, or that they are but feebly enforced, is a matter only to be ascertained by time and such future arrangements as may probably take place.

Time and experience having afforded ample demonstration, that these laws have been increased and enforced, much more with a view to restrain the ravages of those nocturnal depredators denominated poachers, than to prevent the pleasurable pursuits of the sportsman; it may neither prove inapplicable, or unentertaining, to take a cursory review of the causes which continue to operate so powerfully to their disadvantage. In doing this, it becomes directly in point to quote the judicious remarks of a recent writer upon the subject who has observed. "It is, perhaps, among that depraved and unprincipled description of persons well known by the appellation of poachers, that the greater number of those are trained to rapine, who infest every rural neighbourhood with their petty thefts, and whose dexterity almost bids defiance to precaution. Accustomed, in the ensnaring of game, to the secresy of fraud, and committing their depredations amidst the silence of night; those horrors, and that consequent dread, which frequently deters from the commission of great offences, gradually lose their effect. Solitude and darkness, which have where withal to appal the human mind in its first deviations into guilt, are divested of their terror in those pilfering pursuits; and the consequence is well known to all, who in the capacity of magistrates, are called to sit in judgment on the delinquency of public offenders, that to this initiation may be justly ascribed the gradational progress of their subsequent enormities."

"When guilt, however venal, becomes by repetition familiar to the mind, it is not in the power of the ignorant and uneducated to restrain its excesses; from a certain mental embecility they cannot collect fortitude to arrest their career of iniquity, or to chalk out the line of devastation beyond which they will not pass. Confining their first nocturnal excursions to the snaring of hares, and netting of partridges, they glory in their golden harvest; but whenever they experience a repeated reverse of fortune, in obtaining a less booty than usual, the fertility of a mind already corrupted, prompts them to make up for the deficiency in game by petty plunder of some other kind, and the wood-stack, the faggot-pile, the sheep-fold, and the hen-roost, all pay tribute in turn to the prowling vagabond, who fills as he can that vacuum in his capacious bag, which has been occasioned by his want of sporting success in the earlier part of the evening. The great and evident evil is, that a culprit of this class, feeling no compunction

compunction in the early stage of his guilt, proceeds with indolent ease and indifference to the most abandoned degeneracy. Game (although prohibited to him by every possible restriction of the law) is a species of property, of which he has so indistinct and imperfect a conception, that he affects to believe he has committed no moral injustice in the various stratagems by which he has contrived to obtain it; he sees not that the claim of a stranger is better than his; he knows not whence that absolute right in another, to that which he has taken, is derived; and his companions, to whom he recounts his manœuvres, are more likely to applaud his cunning, than to reprove his crime. Thus the remorse of of conscience being but slight and feeble in the outset, the wretch is encouraged by degrees to trample on the laws with greater boldness and contempt, till he ultimately terminates his existence at the place of execution a victim to the injured laws of his country, by the wisdom and equity of which his very life and property might have been protected."

That these suggestions (or rather established facts) are fairly represented, and the natural inferences judiciously drawn must be candidly and universally admitted; previous, however, to the conclusive remarks which must necessarily follow upon the comparative opinions upon this head, it becomes unavoidably requisite to introduce a few additional passages from another writer of equal eminence, who, in his literary animadversion upon the well-founded principle of the game-laws, observes, "that in a highly cultivated, well-peopled country, no animal can properly be considered as wild; all are supported by the property and labour of those who cultivate the soil. Some, from their peculiar instincts, are, indeed, less capable than others of being appropriated, and therefore, like lands uninclosed, are held as a joint property. But he who has no land, and consequently contributes nothing to their maintenance, is no more entitled to any use of them, than the inhabitant of one parish is to a right of commonage upon the waste-lands of another; and he who chuses to reside in a town and to keep his property in money, has no more pretence to seize to his own use a hare, or a partridge, than a sheep or goose from him who has chosen to vest his property in land. In the former, as in the latter case, he ought to tempt the owner to sell what is wanted."

Much more, equally ambiguous and equally contradictory, might be extracted from the speculative opinions of respectable writers upon the prudent, political, and equitable basis of the game-laws, which every rational observer, and

and good subject, will readily admit ought to be willingly obeyed; although the great body of poachers, and that much greater infinity their supporters, publicly declare themselves by their practice, of a direct opposite opinion. Just, proper, and political, as these laws have been admitted in their formation, and so truly laudable in their continuance, it is to be seriously regretted, that so little reliance is to be placed upon the deceptive expectation of any material reduction in the number of nocturnal depredators, sanctioned and supported as they are, by the voluptuous opulence of thousands in the metropolis, and the middle classes in every city, town, and village, from one extremity of the island to the other. There is, unluckily, a kind of fatality about the game-laws, to which a certain part of the people have always shewn a murmuring repugnance in theory, and supported it in practice; for if there is any man existing so weak and inexperienced as to suppose, any one species of game is difficult to be obtained during the season, in either town or country, he must be deplorably ignorant in the common occurrences of life, and need only to be assured, that the professional art of poaching is systematically carried on almost "as public as the noon-day sun," for the mutual accommodation of all parties; who in their consolatory gratification most probably exclaim, "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Of this universal consummation there can be but little doubt, when it is generally known, that no one of that numerous, opulent, and commercial body in the city, or any of the long list of epicures in the suburbs, sit down to their tables of luxuries, without game, whenever it is their pleasure to order it; it is not the business of a steward, *maitre d' hotel,* butler, or house-keeper, to expostulate, they all know well where the articles required are to be obtained (under a versification of the school-boy's well-known adage, "one good turn deserves another"), and long experience has convinced them, that pecuniary compensation in one hand can invariably procure game in the other.

For time immemorial different opinions have been held respecting the policy, prudence, probable effect, and permanent utility of the various statutes, between two classes equally opposite to each other, the highest and the lowest; in support of which, it has been the persevering practice of the former to devise such plans, and enact such laws as they conceived most salutary and effectual for the protection and preservation of what they considered the right of the superior orders; while the latter, century after century, have been as incessantly and industriously engaged from one generation to another, in contriving and

adopting all manner of schemes to counteract, evade, and render them abortive: thus the devastating cunning of one party is devoted to a perpetual war with the legislative dictation of the other, and to time alone it must be left to proclaim the victory.

Although a learned prelate has recently, and rather hastily, advanced in his senatorial capacity, "that the people have nothing to do with the laws but to obey them;" yet notwithstanding so supercilious a dictation, they may surely be permitted to investigate and understand them. Admitting this rational position, the mind of rumination naturally recurs to the purport of a passage not long since quoted, where the interested energy of the writer has prompted him to promulgate an opinion, that a person having no land, and who chooses to keep his property in money, has no more right to a hare, or partridge, than he has to the sheep or goose of him who has chosen to vest his property in land; reflecting upon which inordinate suggestion, it should seem, the author in his hasty zeal to exalt the landed interest beyond its proper weight in the scale of wealth, had totally forgotten, or never knew, that great national depository of immensity, the bank of England, situate in the city of London; the millions eternally in motion through the medium of commerce, and moving in all directions to every quarter of the globe; as well as the East and West-India possessions, to an extent of riches beyond conception.

All these considerations of magnitude, to gratify the self-importance of the holders of a little land, the learned writer had found it convenient to bury in oblivion; totally omitting to bestow a retrospective thought upon the infinity of stock-holders, who loyally place an implicit faith in the stability of government, and embark all their property to support it; and to reflect whether every individual may not feel himself equally affected with the appetites of a gentleman, as he who fortunately possesses one hundred a year in land; and who not feeling more disposed to sacrifice at the shrine of self-denial than his neighbour, finds it necessary to avail himself of all the comforts and advantages to be derived from his money, than the other does from his land. Under this candid and impartial survey of the distinct kind of property possessed by each, it is fair to infer, that so long as there shall be a natural propensity to good living, and the luxuries of life, which providence has so plentifully bestowed, so long as the opulent thousands of the metropolis shall incline to think themselves entitled to a participation; and so long as game shall be bred, and human degeneracy

neracy in the lower classes of society continue; so long it is natural to conclude the number of poachers will continue undiminished, in direct opposition to every means that the utmost extent of human wisdom can devise for their extirpation.

Of this continuance there is very little flattering reason to doubt, when it is almost universally known, that notwithstanding every salutary regulation of the law, and the palpable danger of transgressing it; yet the infinite and unprincipled adventurers, whose successful practice has lulled fear to an apathy, pursue their invariable plans of depredation and destruction, almost "as public as the noon-day sun," without seeming at all sensible of, or in the least alarmed at, the dangerous predicament in which they stand. Callous to every prohibition of the law, or affecting neither to know or understand it, the traffic is carried on within a hundred miles of the metropolis with the most unblushing effrontery, totally regardless of pains, penalties, or prosecution. In proof of which "no ghost need come from the grave" to report the well-known fact, that a large majority of the stages upon all, but more particularly the Norfolk and Western roads, come amply supplied for the demand of the London market, and there are a variety of receptacles in the metropolis, where a customer of decent and unsuspicious appearance may be accommodated with a sufficiency to furnish out a city feast. Even the round-frocked drivers of the common road-waggons (those staunch sympathizing friends of the poaching fraternity) can execute an order, having a few days notice, to any amount; and no traveller ever finds a difficulty, during a country tour, in procuring from the landlord, or waiter of his inn, a hare, pheasant, or leash of birds to send off to his friends in town on the following morning.

These, it seems, are incontrovertible facts which may be regrettingly recited, but are not likely, from the united sagacity of the legislature, to be prevented; and from the demonstrative effect of long experience and increasing restrictions, a doubt may be fairly entertained, whether even stamping such atrocious depredations with the punishments annexed to felony would ever effect an obliteration. Amidst the various acts of unprecedented impudence, and most outrageous opposition to the laws, that might be introduced, a few only shall suffice, to hold forth substantial proof, how very little fear they excite in the lower classes of society. It is but a short time since, that a waiter at an inn was

 seen

seen to make a display of seven brace of hares from the mouth of one sack, of all which the choice was offered for three shillings, or three shillings and sixpence each, in proportion to their size and appearance; and within a short period of the same time, a common stage-waggoner offered almost publicly, upon the road between Salisbury and London, fifteen brace of birds at two shillings a brace, four days before the legal commencement of the shooting season.

Enormous as these transgressions are in the eye of the law, as well as of humanity, they are somewhat less systematic than the following fact which occurred about five or six years since; the particulars of which were, with very little ceremony, almost publicly reported by the parties concerned. In the dusk of the evening, in the second week of September, a horse and cart arrived at the entrance of Leadenhall-market, in which resided the person to whom the contents of the cart were consigned, and to whom the whole of its load was to be privately delivered; but, upon the driver's searching his pockets to ascertain the finishing part of his commission, to his utter astonishment, and still more inexpressible mortification, no written document or direction could be found, but had been evidently lost during the journey. To wish, hope, or expect a recovery of so severe a loss was equally vain, and in a dilemma so truly distressing, without a confidant to consult, or a friend to assist, he felt himself (in this most dreadful state of despondency) without any other resource than instantly throwing himself upon the uncertain liberality of a stranger.

Having paraded the pavement in short alternate turns, and in a state of mental perturbation much better conceived than can be described, for near two hours; weary in body, agitated in mind, depressed in spirits, a horse jaded and drooping with the length of his journey, and fearful of adventuring so dangerous a lading to the yard of an inferior inn (to which he was previously destined, so soon as his load had been safely delivered), he tremblingly entered a public-house in the neighbourhood, solicited a word in private with the landlord, to whom he instantly communicated his misfortune in the following way: "That he had been sent to town by two of his neighbours, from the borders of Suffolk, with a pretty good cargo of partridges, to a person living in Leadenhall-market, from whom he was to have received half a crown a brace, but having most unfortunately lost his direction upon the journey, neither the time, or the

occasion,

occasion, admitting of delay, he had no alternative on earth but to entreat the interposing offices of a stranger to shield him from the impending horror of his situation."

The landlord (as may be readily conceived) promised his instantaneous assistance; the countryman, overwhelmed with anxiety, once more took post by his cart, and by the friendly assistance of his newly acquired emissary, the hampers were in less than half an hour unpacked in the publican's cellar, affording the almost incredible display of one hundred brace of partridges, which were immediately taken to by the publican, a poulterer, and his friend, at the price of eighteen-pence a brace; who exultingly paid the countryman the seven pounds ten shillings for their bargain. And from this circumstance having so accidentally transpired, and been so well authenticated at the time, there is too much reason to believe, this is not the only journey, by many, that has been (and may still be) made to the metropolis upon similar occasions.

Having gone through a concise, but correct review of these laws, as well as the indignant opposition they have always excited amongst the lower and most unprincipled orders of society; it remains to be regretted that their complicated structure should admit of such various, and in some instances, such evasive, equivocal, and even paradoxical constructions, as may frequently render conviction a matter of the greatest uncertainty. Some few instances, by way of elucition, have been already introduced, but for the accommodation of those who wish to acquire every information, such cases from the courts, and other collateral remarks, may yet follow, as will tend to render the aggregate of the subject more clearly and generally understood.

A free-warren having been necessarily and repeatedly mentioned in the preceding pages, it becomes equally apposite to define that term in its fullest extent, for the better explanation of such cases as will be recited appertaining to that particular head. Free-warren is a term totally distinct from forest, chace, manor, or warren; it is a franchise derived originally from the crown; and the person having a grant of free-warren over certain lands, possesses a sole right of pursuing, taking, and killing game of every kind within its limits, although there may be no one acre of land his own property, through the whole district, where he is possessed of this right. There are instances [illegible] riety of circumstances render manorial rights and privileges so com[illegible]x, and

[illegible]eemingly

seemingly indefinite, as to produce litigation without personal enmity, but merely that the right shall be legally ascertained. It appears, that where manor lands are situate in, and surrounded by a free-warren, the owner of such lands may kill game within his own manor, but he cannot introduce even a qualified person to kill game there also, without the consent of the owner or possessor of the privilege of free-warren over the whole; if so, the person introduced will be liable to an action for trespass, which action will lie. And for the more perfect comprehension of which the following cases are introduced:—

At the summer assizes for the county of Berks, held at Abingdon, in the month of July, 1802, a curious cause came on to be tried, in which John Westbrook, gentleman, of the parish of Bray (situate in the forest of Windsor), was plaintiff, and a game-keeper of his majesty's, the defendant. The action was brought to try the right of the defendant (as one of his majesty's keepers) to kill game upon the enclosed grounds of the plaintiff, situate in, and surrounded by wastes, commons, and within the boundaries of the said forest. When, without referring to the laws relative to forests only (with which the question was totally unconnected), the court held it good that the king possessing a free-warren over the whole, possessed likewise the privilege of appointing a keeper to kill game upon any, and within every part of the said free-warren, without the least exception as to enclosed lands the property of others; the jury instantly found for the defendant, by which the right and privilege of free-warren may be considered fully confirmed. This being a question of privilege tried on the part of an individual against the prerogative of the crown, it may be conceived fully conclusive upon the subject; but as it cannot be too clearly explained for the prevention of ill-neighbourhood, and expensive litigation, another decision is subjoined which occurred about the same time, and in the same year, though in a different county, but at no greater distance from the metropolis.

BROWNE AGAINST GREENWOOD.

On the 12th of July, 1802, a writ of inquiry was executed before the under-sheriff at Hertford, in an action wherein Henry Browne, Esq. of North Mimms, was plaintiff, and Thomas Greenwood, the younger, defendant. The action w[illegible]t for a trespass committed by the defendant, in shooting game within a free-[illegible]arren belonging to the plaintiff, who is lord of the manor of North Mimms,

Mimms, and entitled to free-warren through the whole of the manor. Upon the investigation it appeared, that the land on which the trespass was committed, and the game killed by the defendant, was not, in point of fact, the land of the plaintiff, but on the contrary belonged to Justinian Major, Esq. However, as it was proved to be within the manor of North Mimms, and the right of free-warren extending over the whole of the manor, the jury, after duly considering the circumstances of the case, and the obstinate inconsistency of the defendant's conduct (who persisted in shooting after being warned to the contrary) gave a verdict of ten pounds damages, with costs of suit. Previous to a revival of the term and privilege by these trials, the franchise of free-warren had almost fallen into disregard, since the new legislative arrangements for the preservation of the game; the appellation of warren being now chiefly applied to grounds set apart for the breeding of hares and conies, and are so described as hare, or rabbit-warrens.

The above recent decisions serve, however, to prove the former restrictions sufficiently in force, to preserve the privilege of free-warren unsullied to those who have it in possession. For, by an act of Henry the Seventh, it is particularly expressed, that it shall not be lawful to any person, of what condition he may be, to take, or cause to be taken, any pheasants or partridges by net, snares, or other engine, out of his warren, upon the freehold of any other person, without the assent, agreement, and special licence of the owner, or possessor of the same, upon forfeiture of ten pounds. And it is likewise worthy observation and remembrance, that a person having a grant of free-warren possesses a sole and exclusive right of taking and destroying game within its limits. If a person have a free-warren in another's lands, the owner of such land cannot permit a qualified person to kill game thereon; the consent of the owner of such free-warren must be obtained (as previously observed), or the person taking or killing game will become a trespasser, and liable to the pecuniary penalty already described. In farther elucidation it is necessary to remark, that a person may have warren in another's land, for one may dispose of the land and reserve the franchise, which is a thing by no means uncommon; but none can make a warren, and appropriate those creatures that are *feræ naturæ* without licence from the king, or where a warren is claimed by prescription.

In

In Blackstone's Reports a case is recited, Lord Dacre *against* Tebb, in an action of trespass for hunting in a free-warren. On "not guilty" pleaded and tried by a special jury, the defendant was found guilty of breaking and entering plaintiff's free-warren, and chasing and hunting one hare; damages sixpence; not guilty as to the residue. It was moved on the part of the plaintiff, that he should have full costs, on the ground that the statutes of Charles the Second (which restricts costs in trespass, where the damages are under forty shillings, unless the freehold, or title to the land came in question), did not extend to this action; in which there could be no question relating to the land, but merely to the free-warren. For the defendant it was alledged, that title to the land might be so involved with the title to the free-warren, that both might come in question.——By the court: In an action merely for breaking free-warren, it is impossible that the soil can ever come in question; for though both may concur in one person, yet the title to the free-warren is always collateral to that of the land; for a man may have a free-warren in another man's land. Besides, the hare so hunted was the personal property of the owner of the free-warren; and if any injury be done to personal property, that will take it out of the statute, and entitle the plaintiff to full costs: the rule was therefore made absolute for taxing full costs.

For the prevention of wilful and malicious trespasses, it is enacted, by an act of William the Third, that in all actions of trespass, in any of the courts of record at Westminster, wherein at the trial of the cause it shall appear, and be certified by the judge under his hand, on the back of the record, that the trespass upon which any defendant shall be found guilty was wilful and malicious, the plaintiff shall recover not only his own damages, but his full costs of suit. Under this statute it therefore appears, if the owner of the land expressly forewarns another not to come thereon, he will in an action of trespass subsequent thereto, be entitled to full costs, notwithstanding the damages given be under the forty shillings before mentioned. In convictions on these statutes, much greater nicety is required than in a declaration, in order that the court may see that the offence is within the jurisdiction of the justice, and that he has not deviated from the line of his authority.

Notwithstanding the infinity of alterations and improvements made in these laws during the successive centuries since their original formation, it is matter of

of surprize, that they should never yet have sufficiently approached such state of perfection, as might have tended to a more clear and demonstrative proof of their certain and unequivocal effect; to the prevention of those expensive litigations, which so frequently occur to the equal admiration, entertainment, and emolument of the gentlemen of the long robe, to whom it never fails to prove a source of annual gratification. In fact, the decisions in various cases to be found upon record, are so replete with contrarieties, it must appear to the mind of ruminative impartiality that what is justice at one time, is absolute oppression at another, and the whole fluctuation of right or wrong becomes entirely dependent upon the glorious uncertainty of the law.

In confirmation of which fair and candid suggestion, such cases are resorted to and quoted, as may assist in reflecting some faint rays of elucidation upon the ambiguity of the whole. In the case of

JONES AGAINST SMART,

after much argument, it was decided, that a diploma conferring the degree of doctor of physic, granted by either of the universities in Scotland, does not give a qualification to kill game under the statutes of Charles; and that an esquire, or other person of higher degree, as such, is not qualified under that act; though the son of an esquire, or the son of other person of higher degree, is qualified. In the retrospective consideration of this case, it is remarked by commentators of celebrity, that on this construction a son, who holds a qualification in right of his father, may be deprived of it by succeeding to his father in the estate if under the required value; and the son, during his father's life, may for the same reason be qualified in right of an unqualified father.

Another case of qualification came before the late Mr. Justice Buller,

THE KING AGAINST UTLEY,

which was originally an information before a justice of the peace, and a conviction of the defendant thereupon; because he was neither qualified by property (under the statutes of Charles II.) nor the eldest son of an esquire, or of other person of higher degree, nor within the exemptions of the act. At the

commencement of the cause the co' sel for he defendant moved to quash the information for the insertion of the word *of*. He observed, "the precedent in Burn, from which this conviction was copied, was defective, and not warranted by law, for the construction put on the words of the statute, by inserting the word *of*, would prevent an esquire, or a knight, or the person superior to an esquire, from being qualified by degree." In reply to which, Mr. Justice Buller observed, "as it appeared to him, that the legislature had taken it for granted, that an esquire, or other person of higher degree, would of course have sufficient estate to qualify him." Upon this declaration the conviction was confirmed.

It has been determined, by the best legal authority, that the lord of a manor, who is worth one hundred and twenty pounds a year, the demesnes of which are granted to another for life, is not thereby qualified to kill game, for the words having an estate, signify having an estate in possession. And this very point was expressly determined in the court of King's-Bench, after a great debate some years ago, where a young gentleman, of the county of Essex, who had ninety pounds a year in possession, and one hundred and fifty pounds in reversion, expectant on the death of his mother, was yet held not to be qualified. But in the case of

EARL FERRERS AGAINST HENTON,

it was adjudged, that an estate of the value of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, holden by the defendant in his own right, under a lease for ninety-nine years, to trustees, if the defendant and others should so long live, is a sufficient qualification to kill game under the statutes of Charles II. by which the necessary qualifications are to be accurately ascertained. Although it has been before obliquely mentioned, it cannot be too firmly impressed on memory, that in the case of

THE KING AGAINST NEWMAN,

that an unqualified person going out with one, or more, who is, or are qualified, and not using dogs of his own, or a gun, cannot be convicted (under any statute extant) merely on the evidence of his being in a shooting, or coursing party.

party. And a person, though qualified, cannot come upon another man's ground to kill game, without being liable to an action for trespass. And an unqualified person for trespassing shall pay full costs; but if he is qualified to kill game, and the damages awarded be under forty shillings, he shall, in such case, pay no more costs than damages.

As the most predominant reason for introducing a collection of cases, is to demonstrate the various inconsistent, litigious, unjust, and malicious prosecutions commenced, and carried on under the sanction of these laws, as well as the uncertainty of their termination, those to follow become more particularly adapted to the completion of that purpose.

BOOTH AGAINST PINNOCK, Esq.

in the court of King's-Bench. This action was brought against Mr. Pinnock (under the direction of his lordship) for shooting a hare on his lordship's grounds, which was both admitted and proved. But in as much as the defendant was a gentleman of fortune, Lord Kenyon thought they ought to go further, and shew he was not qualified. When Mr. Erskine, as counsel for the defendant, said, he was instructed to state, that the defendant had been summoned to appear before a magistrate for the supposed transgression; that the noble lord was personally present; that upon the occasion Mr. Pinnock then produced a settlement that was made upon his wife (who was within six weeks of being of age), by which it appeared that she was tenant for life, without impeachment of waste, of an estate of upwards of one thousand pounds a year. When that marriage-settlement was produced, the magistrate asked Lord Berkeley if he would wait?—"No," said his lordship, "go on, and convict." And after the defendant was thus convicted of the penalty, this action was brought; but Lord Kenyon, after being made acquainted with the contents of the marriage-settlement, was clearly of opinion the qualification was good, and a verdict passed for the defendant.

To convict an offender there must be an information on oath, and summons to appear. The informer must be sworn and examined in the presence of the defendant, and it is not sufficient if his deposition, previously made, is not read over in the presence of the defendant. A conviction for killing game, stating that the defendant being a dissolute person, hunted and killed so many

 hares,

hares, is not sufficient; for it must also shew that he was not qualified. This seems to have been the general practice for time immemorial; but since the late legislative alterations, there have been some few exceptions, where the defendants were under the necessity of proving their own qualifications.

In an action of debt to recover any penalties under these laws, the plaintiff can go but for one penalty on the same statute. Any person not qualified is liable to the penalty for having game in his possession, unless it is proved in defence that it was legally obtained. A very few years since a question of law was decided in the court of Common Pleas, which was as follows:—A gentleman brought his action against another for trespassing upon the waste of his manor, by remaining there, or repeating his visits after notice to quit. Upon the trial it was insisted, that the waste was not that kind of property as to be held so strictly sacred from a trespass as the manor; but this suggestion was over-ruled by the court.

It is equitably presumed, any person may justify going upon the lands of another in pursuit of ravenous beasts, as foxes, badgers, &c. but cannot justify breaking the ground, or digging for them; because the taking of them is admitted a public benefit. So that it will not justify any excessive or unreasonable damage to the land of another, for the justification is only as to the following, and should be done with as little damage as possible. And therefore, if to trespass for such cause, the defendant justifies as following a fox, or such beast; and, in fact, has committed unnecessary mischief, the plaintiff shall make a new assignment of whatever excessive and unnecessary mischief may have taken place.

The litigious and expensive controversies which so incessantly occur upon the various and indeterminate points of the laws before us, first suggested to the writer the probable utility of introducing such legal decisions (in a recital of well-authenticated cases) as might, in a certain degree, relieve the subject from its almost proverbial ambiguity, and to render the aggregate easier to the comprehension of those little learned in, or accustomed to the sublime and learned language of the law. A much greater variety of decisions, amply demonstrative of the contrarieties and uncertainties of such suits, might be introduced; but, as they can neither tend to farther enlighten the matter, amuse the mind, or entertain the reader, they are concluded unnecessary after every previous and

possible

possible information included upon the subject. To review, recite, and enlarge upon the various and opposite opinions promulgated by different writers upon what they have termed the "severity, cruelty, impolitic effect, and inefficacy of these laws," would be to prolong the animadversion beyond every purpose of utility, as well as beyond the intentional limits of the work itself; it must therefore suffice, to conclude with the remarks of the present Poet Laureat, (extracted from the introduction to his Essays on Sporting) as the most candid, considerate, humane, and explicit, that have ever been submitted from the press to public discrimination.

Rural diversions (says he), when followed with liberality and discretion, are particularly useful in this island; where, from the nature of our government, no man can be of consequence without spending a large portion of his time in the country, and every additional inducement to this mode of life is an additional security to our freedom and independence. I much question whether our morals, or even our manners, are greatly improved by that style of living which empties our country-seats to fill the metropolis, or the large provincial towns; and whether the manly character, which once distinguished the Englishman, has not suffered more on the side of firmness and integrity, than it has gained on that of politeness and elegance, by sacrificing the rough sports of the field to the softer amusements of the assembly and card-table.

I know the laws which are in force to preserve these animals which are the objects of this diversion, are severely attacked by the sentimental novel-writers of the present time; writers who without invention, humour, or real knowledge of mankind, dress up some improbable tale with affected maxims of fine feelings, and exquisite sensibility; and endeavour to weaken the hearts, inflame the passions, and mislead the understandings of the rising generation. These abound with horrid stories of the young and ingenuous peasant torn from his weeping parents, and either hurried into a loathsome dungeon, or banished to an unhealthy climate, only for the murder of a hare or partridge.

But I will venture to say, there is hardly a day-labourer in the kingdom that may not, in a reasonable manner, be indulged with the use of these animals by a proper application; and if he is fond of the diversion they afford, and chooses to be idly busy, than industriously so, he may perfectly satisfy himself by attending

tending the hounds and greyhounds of the 'squire, or assisting the game-keeper with his gun. But that laws should be made to prevent the man, whose family depends entirely on his labour for support, from quitting his flail, his plough, or his spade, to range the woods for the destruction of animals which afford a noble and manly diversion to their proprietor, I can conceive no more inconsistent with justice, than that he should be prevented from entering the orchard, or the hen-roost.

As the beasts of the forest, and the fruits of the soil, are equally common in a state of nature, so I see no reason why they may not be equally appropriated in a state of civil society: and I appeal to any person perfectly conversant in these kind of facts, if he knows a single instance of one of those men, commonly called poachers, whose profession is a violation of the game-laws, and against whom they are ever executed with any severity, whose character and sufferings could entitle him to a tear, even from that most sentimental of all sentimental heroes, "the man of feeling" himself.

While I am thus defending the general principle of our game-laws, I do not mean to stand forth as their champion in every respect: they want great alteration, as to the objects of their penalties and exemptions; and I trust the time is not far distant when they will certainly receive it from the wisdom and authority of parliament.

END OF VOLUME THE FIRST.

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